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NO. 7628



Struggling lunch

A rare Swain eagle carries its struggling lunch, a frog, to the top of a tree in the Nairobi National Park. (Reuter wirephoto)

### NY cracks down on illegal night club

## Arson suspect held

NEW YORK, March 26. (Agencies): A hard-luck Cuban refugee was formally charged today with setting the fire that killed 87 people in an illegal New York night-club and police said he did it with a dollar's worth of petrol because his girlfriend had spurned him.

Julio Gonzalez, 36, described as a quiet man always polite to strangers, was ordered held without bail, charged with the largest mass murder in US history — killing partygoers who packed the Happy Land social club in the New York borough of the Bronx on Sunday.

Police said Gonzalez had begged his girlfriend, a ticket-taker at the club, to return to him. When she refused and had him thrown out of the club, he had a few drinks and then bought a dollar's worth of petrol and set fire to Happy Land's only working door.

Police said he confessed and one source described him as a "jail screwed up over a woman."

Gonzalez, who came to the United States in the 1980 Cuban boat-lift from Mariel, was sent to the city's Riker's Island jail where guards have placed him in an isolated cell and mounted a "suicide watch" in case he tries to add his own life to the death toll.

The flames quickly engulfed the tiny club frequented by Hon-

durian and other Hispanic immigrants, its thick smoke suffocating the people crammed inside dancing to Salsa music.

Firemen reported that several people died in the flames with their drinks still in their hands. Many were dressed in their Sunday best to celebrate at a club named "Happy Land" in honour of the United States, the place where immigrants came seeking a better life.

While Gonzalez was described as remorseful and filled with tears, a wave of anger erupted in the poor Bronx neighbourhood where the fire took place.

Area residents demanded he be turned over to them because New York state does not have the death penalty. "He must be crazy. We know what to do with him," one woman told reporters.

Gonzalez was described by acquaintances as a man who had little in life. He lost his job as a warehouseman six months ago and the woman he lived with threw him out of their apartment three months ago.

The woman, who was not identified by police, was one of five people who survived the blaze. She and two other friends told police about his coming to the club and police arrested him about 12 hours after the fire, waking him up from a deep sleep. Police said he had gone to bed.

Happy Land had been under an eviction order for more than a year and officials were at a loss to explain why it was still operating.

Social service agencies managed a school near the club to help relatives make funeral arrangements, offering in many cases to foot the bill.



Gonzalez knowing the damage the blaze had caused.

City officials began shutting many of the illegal nightclubs that dot New York, forming a chain of dangerous speakeasies without safeguards against fire.

By mid-day, 22 of New York's estimated 700 social clubs had been closed.

Happy Land had been under an eviction order for more than a year and officials were at a loss to explain why it was still operating.

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Refugees said Indian forces accused them of barboaring Muslim separatists.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of training and arming the militants, a charge regularly denied by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

The turbulent state of Jammu-Kashmir is part of a larger Kashmir divided between India and Pakistan after British colonial rule ended in 1947.

Scores of people have died in secessionist violence in Jammu-Kashmir since Jan 20 when Indian troops launched a crackdown on the Muslim militants, who want either an independent Kashmir or to be united with Pakistan.

In addition, about a dozen people have died in recent weeks of exposure from slogging through knee-deep snow to cross into Pakistan, said Haider, who heads a newly established relief committee to organise refugee assistance.

He said tent villages will be set up in the next week in the valleys of Pakistan-held Kashmir. He also said appeals for assistance would be made to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations.

The human rights commission will also be asked to investigate the claims of abuse by the refugees, said Haider.

Most of the refugees have come in the last 12 days, Haider said.

"There are reports of new people coming every day," he said. "There are as many as 200 to 250 a day."

### NEWSWATCH



Enrile confers with lawyer

SENATOR Juan Ponce Enrile, facing charges of rebellion and murder, confers with his lawyer Ramon Cayetano (right) at a trial court in Manila. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Floods kill 69

JAMMU, India, March 26. (Reuter): Flash floods have killed at least 69 people in India's northern Jammu and Kashmir state in the past week, police said today.

### Too many bicycles

HONG KONG, March 26. (Reuter): More than 10 million brand new bicycles are stuck in shops all over China because factories are churning out too many.

### Weather

### Thatcher faces the axe

LONDON, March 26. (Kuna): Nervous conservatives have put British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on six months' probation, it was reported here today.

She has until the Conservative Party conference in October to restore their fortunes or "face the axe," according to the popular newspaper, "Today."

Observers noted that the British government was heading for another difficult week, following the continued slump in the Thatcher government's popularity.

Opinion polls in the Sunday papers here variously put Labour ahead by 10, 23 and 28 points.

### Hernia operation

PRAGUE, March 26. (Reuter): President Vaclav Havel had a hernia operation on Saturday and is recovering in hospital, his press secretary said today.

### Earthquake

MOSCOW, March 26. (Reuter): An earthquake in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Tajikistan created cracks in some buildings but caused no injuries, the official news agency Tass reported today.

BEIRUT, March 26. (AP): Sheik Mohamad Hussein Fadlallah, the nation's most influential Shiite Muslim cleric, was quoted today as saying there are "positive elements" in the issue of the Western hostages in Lebanon.

There are positive elements, within the context of what we detect through media reports in more than one place, that suggest elements of a solution exist in the hostage crisis," Fadlallah said.

Fadlallah, spiritual guide to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, made his remarks in an interview with the pro-Syrian Ash-Sharq newspaper.

Questioned about reports that he was formally asked to help find a solution to the issue

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## Ramadan begins today

JEDDAH, March 26. (Agencies): Muslims in the Gulf region, along with others in the Middle East and elsewhere throughout the world, scanned the skies after twilight today in hopes of sighting the luminous Crescent that heralds the festive but arduous dawn-to-dusk fasting month of Ramadan.

First to announce the sighting from

the Arabian peninsula was North Yemen, where the responsible panel of

### Ramadan Timings

Imsak: 4:14 Iftar: 6:03

Islamic judges declared Ramadan will start tomorrow.

Quick to follow suit was the state of South Yemen, committed to a union this year with their northern neighbours.

A statement on the state-run radio in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh said two witnesses had sighted the Crescent and that Ramadan will start tomorrow.

The radio read a statement the Saudi Monarch King Fahd and Crown Prince

Abdullah congratulating the Muslim nation on the advent of the month and praying for "blessing, mercy and goodness" through its days for the entire Muslim world.

Kuwait also today said it would observe the holy fasting month of Ramadan as of tomorrow (Tuesday). March 27, it was officially announced.

## Arabs uphold Iraqi execution

### Bazoft affair trap to damage ties

TUNIS, March 26. (Agencies): Arab states said today they fully supported Iraq against Western criticism of its execution of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft after conviction on spying charges.

"The council (of the Arab League) proclaims its complete solidarity with Iraq in the defence of its sovereignty and national security," said a statement issued after a meeting of Arab ambassadors in Tunis.

"The spy Farzad Bazoft (was) convicted for spying for foreign secret services, as established by his confessions to Iraqi justice, after a trial which conformed to internationally recognised legal rules," it added.

Bazoft, an Iranian-born journalist working for the British Sunday newspaper the Observer, was hanged in Baghdad on March 15.

Iraq had called for today's meeting to muster Arab support for its position.

The Arab states accused Britain of conducting an iniquitous campaign against Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs, and they regretted that some European Economic Community states had joined the campaign.

"This campaign in no way serves Arab-European relations, which the Arab states are keen to develop in the framework of mutual respect, the sovereignty of the two parties and non-interference in internal affairs," it added.

In a cautious speech opening the meeting, Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi said Iraq had merely exercised its right to apply the law, as any other state would do, but the affair should not damage relations with Europe.

Klibi said: "Those who took part in the political and media campaign against Iraq... forgot that Iraq still feels, and justly, that it is in a state of war with Iran and that it has the right to defend its security and national interests."

"At the same time, the Arab states are keen to preserve Arab-European relations from any deterioration which Israel may be planning for them," he added.

Klibi expressed astonishment for the lack of information at the disposal of some British and European media about the past of the Iranian journalist who committed crimes "against Britain itself."

He affirmed that Iraq cross-examining has revealed that Bazoft was guilty and was serving the interests of the Israeli intelligence "which is an extremely dangerous matter against Iraq whose nuclear reactor, which was constructed for peaceful purposes, was attacked by Israel in 1981."

He suggested the affair was a trap to damage relations with Europe and implied that either Israel or Iran had laid it.

"For that reason, we have taken the initiative of informing the presidency of the European Economic Community that the Arab states are worried about attempts to drag the community into an affair which may have undesirable consequences," he added.

In a separate statement, the Arab states condemned the US Senate for passing a resolution recognising occupied Jerusalem as Israel's capital last week.

"This decision is contrary to the provisions of international law, of the United Nations charter," it said.

"It does not serve peace at the present juncture. On the contrary it amounts to an obstacle to the peace process and encourages Israel to continue its inhumane oppression of Palestinian citizens," it added.

## Forum wins polls in Hungary

BUDAPEST, March 26. (UPI): The Hungarian Democratic Forum, an anti-Communist Party launched by dissidents 18 months ago, emerged the apparent winner in the nation's first free multi-party elections in more than four decades, returns showed today.

Voters in the first round of parliamentary elections yesterday rejected the old-line Communist Party, which received little more than three percent of the votes.

The Hungarian Socialist Party, the former communist party which renamed itself last fall and came out for parliamentary democracy, did only a little better with about 10 percent.

The results of yesterday's election will not determine the makeup of parliament because in many districts no candidate won a majority. Runoff elections will be held April 3.

With 54 percent of the votes counted for the 152 county seats, the centre-right Forum whose leader in Jozsef Antall, garnered 24.33 percent, followed by its chief rival, the Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats with 20.63 percent.

Third place went to the Agrarian Independent Smallholders Party with 12.87 percent, while the Socialist Party was fourth with 10.06 percent.

The Young Democrats, the brash but independent ally of the Free Democrats, tallied 8.06 percent.

The Old Hungarian Socialist Workers Party — the unrepresentative communists — held 3.69 percent, in indication it may not even be represented in the parliament it totally controlled for decades. The cutoff for a party to be represented in parliament is 4 percent.

Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth, a Socialist Party member running as an independent, and three Forum deputies won re-election to parliament outright.

The Forum, with 25,000 members and 430 local branches, emerged on Sept. 27, 1987, in the village of Lakitelek in southern Hungary, where 170 intellectuals met to discuss the worsening political situation.

Imre Pozsgay, the Reform Communist who also showed up at Lakitelek and subsequently led the drive to bury the Marxist one-party state system, came in third place in his own district and will participate in a runoff. But he said he didn't regret what he did.

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## Cong (I) govts fall in Goa, Meghalaya

NEW DELHI, March 26. (UPI): The Congress (I) Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi saw more of its once-powerful political empire crumble today with the collapse of state governments in southwestern Goa and northeastern Meghalaya.

The latest blow to the one-time political juggernaut of the Gandhi-Nehru family came less than a month after the party lost control of five states in local elections and exactly four months after it was defeated in a national election by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's National Front alliance.

The demises of a Congress (I) Party administration in Goa and a coalition led by the organisation in Meghalaya left it in command of only seven of 25 states, none of its traditional stronghold of northern India, the nation's most politically influential region.

Only five years ago, during the first year of Rajiv's five-year term, his party controlled more than half of the states and held record majorities in both houses of the Parliament.

Though neither Goa nor Meghalaya wield significant political power in national affairs because of their tiny populations, their losses signalled a further erosion of the party's strength, attributed by experts to Rajiv's poor leadership, pro-rich image, and inability to dispel allegations of corruption. The party has also been badly torn by factional infighting.

In Goa, a former Portuguese colony on India's southern Arabian Sea coast, Pratapsingh Rane resigned as chief minister only hours before the 40-seat legislature was scheduled to hold a vote of no-confidence on his administration.

The government was plunged into crisis on Saturday, when seven Congress (I) Party members led by assembly Speaker Luis Proto Barbosa staged an unexpected revolt, quitting the organisation and forming the Goan People's Party.

A new situation has emerged, but I don't know when, how or where." The statement did not elaborate.

Fadlallah's remarks have heightened speculation that there is movement in efforts to secure the release of 18 Western hostages missing in Lebanon, most believed held by groups linked to Hezbollah.



Boy with a cyanide capsule

A 11-year-old Tamil boy, wearing a cyanide capsule on a string around his neck, waits for a meal in a refugee camp in the eastern Indian state of Orissa where he has been given shelter. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Tamil rebel women deadlier than men

TINNEVELLI, Sri Lanka, March 26, (AP): With cyanide capsules around their necks and assault rifles ready to fire, the women guerrillas of the Tamil Tigers have moved out of the jungles and into the towns.

Following the withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops, the emergence of the Tamil Tigers, who long have been talked about but less often seen, is jolting Tamil society in the Jaffna peninsula.

Violence has been rampant since the ethnic minority's separatist revolt began in 1983, but warfare generally was considered men's work.

"Our sons' fabric and lifestyle have been completely destroyed. It will never be the same after seeing these young girls carrying guns," said Velupillai

Kamathipillai, a Tamil school teacher, echoing traditional beliefs that Tamil women should be shy and retiring.

Li Imida, a 26-year-old commander of the female Tigers of Tamil Eelam,

feels otherwise. She said she and her women cadre can handle not only their T-

81 Chinese assault rifles and machine pistols, but also rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns.

Her two-storey headquarters was guarded during a recent visit by about 25 camouflage-clad Tiger women. They are allied with, but segregated from the male Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which fielded the biggest guerrilla force against the Sri Lankan Army and the later Indian peacekeeping force.

No men were in sight, and the rare male visitor is eyed with suspicion.

## Woman held in Punjab murder

AMRITSAR, March 26, (Agencies): A 26-year-old Sikh separatist who posed as a journalist was arrested Saturday for her alleged role in the kidnapping and decapitation of a leading local politician, police said.

Jasmeet Kaur was charged with murdering Hardev Singh Babu, a local Communist Party leader.

Babu's head was found stuck on an iron gate of a government school in his village outside Amritsar on March 19. Since January, Sikh militants have killed more than 440 people to dramatize their demand for a separate nation in Punjab state in northern India.

Speaking at a news conference organised by police, Ms. Kaur said she introduced herself to Babu on the evening of March 14 as a correspondent for a well-known New Delhi magazine. She said she told him she wanted a tour of India's border with Pakistan as a story on terrorism in Punjab state.

She spent the next two days with him, touring the border areas with Babu and his bodyguards. Occasionally, she offered Babu alcoholic drinks and he let her drive the car, she said. On the night of March 16, she and Babu drove alone to Amritsar and she handed him over to Sikh extremists, she said. A day later his head was found.

Babu came from a Sikh family but he was clean shaven. One of the tenets of the Sikh faith is that male believers must let their hair and beards grow.

Babu's assassination apparently was carried out as revenge, said Anil Sharma, senior superintendent of police in Majithia where the case was broken. Bodyguards of the Communist Party leader had killed two of the most wanted Sikh extremists in gun battles, Sharma said.

Sharma said extremists wanted to kill Babu initially because he opposed their call for an independent Sikh nation. He said police were still looking for Kaur's accomplices.

Kaur said that to carry out the plan, Sikh extremists spent two months teaching her how to drive and instructing her in other details of the operation.

Violence has risen in recent weeks in Punjab. A bomb attack on Tuesday in Chandigarh that left 17 dead marked the first time in more than a year that Sikh nationalists have attacked that city.

Party officials said the group had initially recruited 70,000 members nation-wide and planned to mount "people power" demonstrations like those

## Global detente bypasses South Asia

ISLAMABAD, March 26, (AP): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto claimed on Sunday that the trend toward peace and disarmament that is sweeping the world has bypassed South Asia.

"It is nothing short of tragic that our region is yet to share the global trends towards detente and a new respect for the rights of people," Benazir told about 40 Pakistani diplomats from around the world.

Referring to India, she said "our eastern neighbour continues its policy of building up its military machine."

"The addition of new missile systems

and nuclear submarines, coupled with an across-the-board increase in defence outlay by the government of India, imposes a great burden on us," she said.

Contrary to our wishes, it engages our limited resources and circumscribes our economic initiatives."

Pakistan spends 52 percent of its budget on military.

"Emboldened by its perceived military superiority, India has proceeded to let loose a reign of terror in Kashmir to suppress their movement for the right of self-determination," she said.

"We are still saddled with the responsibility of caring for three million Afghan refugees," which costs \$1 million a day, she said.

The international community and Pakistan have equally shared the cost for the last 10 years, but Islamabad is facing major cutbacks in the Western humanitarian assistance for the refugees from war-torn Afghanistan.

"We have to cope with these and other pressures in an economic setting which may become increasingly unfavourable. International assistance may considerably shrink in the years ahead," Benazir warned the ambassadors.

DAHAKA, March 26, (Agencies): President Hossain Mohammad Ershad today said Bangladesh's economy was rebounding and forecast food sufficiency and an industrial boom for the impoverished country in the next two years.

"Those who say that we are facing an economic crisis are looking at us negatively," he said in a message marking his country's 19th independence anniversary.

Ershad said the country hoped to attain a record food output target of 19 million tonnes in the current year against the previous highest of 16.6 million tonnes in 1987.

Many more industries, he said, would be established under a new industrial policy.

"In fact the economy is rebounding, no matter what the critics would say. If we can meet the current pace, we shall be self-sufficient in food and have an industrial boom by 1992," Ershad said.

Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations with annual per capita income of \$170, announced early this month that its foreign exchange reserves had dropped to \$450 million, barely enough for one month's imports.

Following the announcement, the Central Bank devalued the currency, the taka, by 4.9 percent against the US dollar.

In spite of economic burdens, Ershad donated a \$100,000 contribution in completing Rome's great mosque, an official said in Rome today.

Director of the Islamic Centre in Rome Abdelyaqoum Khan told Kuna that Ershad presented his donation in the name of Bangladesh to finalise construction of such a great Islamic project in Italy.

A rain-swollen river burst its embankments and triggered flash floods that marooned about 10,000 people in northeastern Bangladesh, a newspaper said.

The Khowai River, which runs down the hills from neighbouring India, overflowed Sunday morning after two days of non-stop rain, the Bengali-language Ittefaq newspaper said.

India Today magazine reported that the aircraft have sometimes lost power while descending, suffered computer malfunctions and that its advanced technology gave no option to cockpit crews to override the computer command in emergencies.

India Today magazine reported that official documents indicated that the Rajiv government pushed through the Airbus deal with arbitrariness and under haste, ignoring other options as well as warnings about the inadequacy of India's ground support systems.

The magazine reported that Indian Airlines and the Civil Aviation Ministry altered air traffic projections and the nature of the fleet requirements to favour the European planes and that a fresh offer from Boeing was spurned.

The A-320 selection was made by selected senior officials in contrast to the usual practice of rigorous examination by an expert committee, said the magazine, adding the Boeing 757 planes were rejected on the basis of data provided by unknown sources.

South Korea and the Soviet Union have also agreed in principle to exchange permanent missions as a prelude to formal diplomatic ties, a leading newspaper said today.

The accord was signed today in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator between South Korean assistant Foreign Minister Lee Kie-Joo and Mongolian first Vice-Foreign Minister Yondon, ministry officials said.

Mongolia became the sixth socialist country to establish formal ties with capitalist South Korea after Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. Mongolia maintains diplomatic ties with communist North Korea, an archrival of South Korea.

The ministry officials said South Korea and Mongolia also planned to sign agreements to promote trade, economic and technical co-operation and cultural exchanges.

The judge said Kano had maintained a corrupt relationship with Recruit Co. without reservations, and should be held responsible for being repeatedly entertained from the company.

"But this government is purely maintained at gunpoint, not on people's votes as in the West."

Chinese interviewed in the capital, where many residents are still simmering over last spring's violent crackdown of dissidents, expressed unanimous contempt for the ongoing session of the NPC, China's rubber-stamp legislature.

"Why do foreign journalists even bother covering the NPC?" Asked an artist in disgust. "We don't pay any attention to it at all."

The annual two-week session opened March 20 with a hardline keynote address by Premier Li Peng in which the unpopular leader declared the Communist Party would never relax its grip on power and warned further dissent would be crushed.

Li also called for strengthened Marxist indoctrination, but said the government would ease an ongoing economic austerity programme to avoid a deep recession.

## Probe into Airbus deal

'Rajiv administration paid kickbacks in jets sale': reports

NEW DELHI, March 26, (UPI): The Indian government said today it is looking into published reports that kickbacks were involved in the \$1.4 billion sale of 31 European-made A-320 Airbus passenger jets to the administration of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammed Khan made the announcement in reply to a question in the upper house of parliament on the purchase of 31 A-320 aircraft from French-based Airbus industries.

The minister said the government is looking into news reports that

said that kickbacks were paid in the 1986 sale of 19 A-320s and a June 1989 order for another 12 planes under an option in the first purchase.

There were no immediate comments on Khan's statement from either the former ruling party or Airbus industries.

The reports of alleged kickbacks appeared in several Indian news publications following the Feb 14 crash of an Indian Airlines-owned A-320 outside the southern city of Bangalore in which 90 people died. The cause of the disaster has not been revealed.

Following the crash, the government grounded all of the remaining A-320s and ordered experts to investigate the safety of the planes and the efficiency of the ground infrastructure at Indian airports.

Khan told members of the upper house that state-owned Indian Airlines had signed in July 1984 a letter of intent to buy 12 Boeing 757 planes from US-based Boeing Co., but later cancelled the deal in favour of Airbus industries.

Khan said the Rajiv administration, which was driven from power in late November elections by the National Front coalition of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, decided that the European-built planes were more fuel-efficient.

However, he said that Indian Airlines frequently faced problems with the aircraft like smoke in the cabin and snags with its pressurisation and hydraulic systems.

Pilots also have complained that the aircraft have sometimes lost power while descending, suffered computer malfunctions and that its advanced technology gave no option to cockpit crews to override the computer command in emergencies.

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Li also called for strengthened Marxist indoctrination, but said the government would ease an ongoing economic austerity programme to avoid a deep recession.

## Seoul and Mongolia start full relations

SEOUL, March 26, (AP): South Korea and Mongolia have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations, South Korea's Foreign Ministry announced today.

The accord was signed today in the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator between South Korean assistant Foreign Minister Lee Kie-Joo and Mongolian first Vice-Foreign Minister Yondon, ministry officials said.

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

TAMPA, Florida: "Batman" and his director Tim Burton is being deliberately vague about his latest project — Edward Scissorhands, a suburban fantasy film about a man created with shears of metal for fingers.

"It's very different," Burton said. "We're going to sort of make it up as we go along."

Burton and stars Johnny Depp, Diane West and Winona Ryder arrived here Thursday to start three months of production on the film, scheduled for Christmas release.

According to 20th Century Fox, Scissorhands is about a man who was created, not born. He was given everything he needed to lead a full life, except one thing: His inventor's untimely death left Edward with sharp shears of metal where his fingers should have been. (AP)

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas: Libby Swindle's idea of a 40th birthday celebration is to climb a mountain, two times in a single day.

"I thought of a half-marathon or a cruise, but I thought this would be more fun," Swindle said after completing her eighth circuit of the 1.5-mile (3.9-metre) trail up Pinnacle mountain.

The climb began at 5:45 am Wednesday, part of her tradition of climbing the West Summit trail at Pinnacle Mountain state park at Sunrise. Each time she returned to the base, more friends and relatives had arrived to cheer her on. (AP)



Tourist attraction

Tourists climb the stairs to the 18th Prussian imperial palace of Sans Souci in Potsdam outside Berlin, on March 25. Sans Souci is a new tourist attraction for West Berliners after the borders between the two German countries fell on Nov. 9, 1989. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Broccoli

## I'm not goin' to eat: Bush

WASHINGTON, March 26, (Reuters): The big white tractor-trailer cruised slowly, ominously past the White House yesterday, loaded with ... broccoli, the vegetable US President George Bush hates.

"I do not like broccoli. I haven't liked it since I was little kid and my mother made me eat it. And I'm president of the United States and I'm not going to eat it any more," Bush said in a unique declaration of independence on Tuesday.

The rhubarb began when Bush banned broccoli from the presidential aircraft, complaining it continually turned up on his plate even though he never ate it.

But the President's refusal to eat his vegetables' misbehavior into a concert of wills as California growers dispatched a truckload to Washington.



Visiting mom

The Duke of York bends to pose with his first child Princess Beatrice as they arrive to see his wife, the Duchess of York at the Portland Hospital, London, on March 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Record haul

## Robbers raid Swiss bank

GENEVA, March 26, (AP): Four armed robbers raided a bank in downtown Geneva early yesterday and got away with 35 million Swiss francs (\$2.6 million) in banknotes of various currencies, police reported.

Police spokesman Marcel Vaudroz said the haul, at the main Geneva office of Union Bank, Switzerland's biggest, was believed to be the largest in Swiss history.

He said the gangsters, between 35 and 50 years old, wearing no masks, and speaking fluent French, arrived at the personnel entrance before 8:00 am and forced two security guards to gun point to yield the door keys.

Inside they held up a bank employee and a cleaning woman. All four were tied and gagged.

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama: Hank Williams Jr. will donate proceeds from a concert to help flood victims in southeast Alabama, a childhood playground for the country and Western singer, his manager said.

Merle Kilgore said Wednesday that Williams will donate his concert fee and concession sales from an April 1 concert in Birmingham to the people of Elba.

They hope to raise more than \$100,000, Kilgore said.

High waters swept away parts of a level surrounding Elba last weekend and inundated the town. (AP)

NEW ORLEANS: The Reverend Daniel Berrigan must pay a \$500 fine for contempt of court by Monday and cannot put off payment while he appeals the citation, a federal judge said.

The 68-year-old anti-war activist was among 24 people convicted of disruption in a federal building during a December 1 sit-in protesting US military aid to El Salvador.

US district Judge Peter Pepe found Berrigan in contempt of court and fined him \$500 on February 8 for failing to appear for his arraignment December 14. (AP)

La Belle Epicerie. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Paris art sale shatters records

PARIS, March 26, (Reuters): A collection of paintings gathered by a Parisian couple who ignored the advice of friends and art experts shattered individual world records yesterday when sold as part of an auction which also set a Paris record total.

Auction officials said Lucien and Marcelle Bourdon's collection, which included works by Picasso, Matisse and Degas, fetched an estimated total of 300 million francs (\$32 million), setting four individual world records.

The auction, which included a selection of works from other collections, raised a total of \$86.2 million francs (\$1.02 million) the highest at a Paris auction.

The money will go to charities for animals and handicapped children. World records at the auction, at which Japanese customers placed bids via a satellite linkup with Tokyo, included Italian painter Amedeo Modigliani's "The Pretty Shopkeeper," which went for 63 million francs.

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## Ozone contributing to skin cancer

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, March 26, (UPI): The depletion of earth's ozone layer apparently is contributing to a dramatic increase in an often deadly form of skin cancer in the United States, researchers announced.

Ultra Network Technologies Inc., based in San Jose, California, will join Fujitsu and Tokyo Electron Ltd., the American company's representative in Japan, to adapt its high-speed network system to Fujitsu's supercomputer VP200 and its general use model groups M-780 and M-760 by the last quarter of 1990, they said. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: The Tennessee state museum has an "incredible opportunity" to show paintings by such masters as Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Monet and Picasso if it comes up with \$800,000 by Friday.

The Bridgestone Museum told the state a year ago that the priceless works would be available for loan, but that the state has to pay \$800,000.

The money would go for such things as proper crating, insurance, security, shipping and care while on display, officials said.

The 60 works of art, largely impressionist in style, were made available to Tennessee by the Ishibashi Foundation, owner of the Bridgestone Museum in Tokyu. (UPI)

MILAN, Italy, March 26, (Reuters): Italy's five Fendi sisters, lambasted by animal activists as the fashion world's top furriers, are out to save their skins.

Eager to defeat a world-wide lobby strongest in the United States, the Roman sisters have defiantly challenged their vocal critics with a huge and luxurious store on New York's Fifth Avenue.

Demonstrators draped in pelts splashed with red varnish chanted "Fendi sells blood" when the doors to the flagship store — which boasts golden and black marble floors and a crystal lift — were thrown open late last year.

On sale next in Fendi's lines of ready-to-wear clothes, handbags and other luxury goods, was the kind of fur which makes animal rights activists see red — an ermine coat worth \$200,000.

The Fendi sisters outlined their strategy against their critics at Milan's autumn-winter fashion shows this month when they paraded a range of skilfully camouflaged, but still precious, pelts.

Snaking their way through the renaissance arches of a spotlit palace courtyard, Fendi's models showed off mink, golden sables and summer ermine — but each design was reversible, and many were worn with the fur on the inside.

Fake pelts rubbed shoulders with the real thing, and the sisters camouflaged the furiness of a squirrel jacket by weaving in tufts of wool all over it. Amateur burglars might not give them a second glance.

Not that pelts are on their way out — far from it, says Carla Fendi, who spearheaded the \$5 million assault on Fifth Avenue:

"Everybody's free to think what they want. America's beautiful because of that. But a woman will always be her vanity. You can't tell her to throw her fur away just because it's an animal's skin."

"It's like telling a man to throw away this Ferrari just because we can't get rid of industrial waste."

Instead Fendi is seeking to make its furs more like any other throw-on garment.

Jury selection in the trial of Gregory Smith, 26, begins Monday in superior court before Judge John Mariano. Testimony is to begin April 2. (AP)

damaging ultraviolet rays. Rigel, of New York University, told an American Cancer Society seminar yesterday.

Unlike the more common forms of skin cancer, which are easily cured, melanoma often resists treatment once it has spread.

There will be an expected 27,600 new cases of melanoma in the United States this year, killing 6,300 people. Once extremely rare, melanoma is now the country's ninth most common form of cancer, increasing faster than any other form of the disease. Rigel said.

A study by Rigel's research group found six primary risk factors for melanoma, including light hair, freckling, a family

history of the disease and the presence of red, rough skin marks from sun exposure.

Two other factors that predispose people to melanoma are blistering sunburns and outdoor jobs during teenage years, Rigel said. "It's not a good idea to get sunburn," he said, "but it is even worse to get a sunburn before the age of 20."

Rigel said those with three or more risk factors are up to 25 times more likely to develop melanoma than others. For that reason, he said, it is important for everyone, especially young people, to avoid "intense bursts of sun" that cause blistering sunburns.

Those at risk for melanoma also should

remember that it can take years to develop, he said, so the increased rate seen during the 1980s reflects "what people did in the 1960s and 1970s, not what they are doing today."

For those who develop melanoma, early diagnosis is a key to survival. The survival rate for those with small tumours detected early is 98 per cent, but it drops to 53 per cent once the tumour has grown.

He said there appears to be a clear cause and effect between ozone loss and increased melanoma mortality. He calculated that a 7 per cent ozone loss may translate into a nearly 10 per cent increase in mortality.

## Oscars tension reigns

## 'Miss Daisy' sure winner

LOS ANGELES, March 26, (Reuters): "Driving Miss Daisy" could sweep the Oscars tonight with awards for best picture and for its two stars, 80-year-old Jessica Tandy and Morgan Freeman — if the betting odds for Hollywood's top honours are on target.

Stars and studio heads, who have pumped an estimated \$9 million into promoting films they distributed, took bets at Oscar eve parties as final rehearsals went on for Hollywood's biggest night of the year.

Oscar presenters Tom Hanks, Dan Aykroyd, Paula Abdul, Tom Selleck, Gregory Peck, Jane Fonda, Jeff Bridges and Jessica Tandy playfully practised their corny award introductions yesterday.

About 500 family, friends and related hangers-on settled into the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to hear the patter.

This year's show will feature muted tones and conservative production numbers. In one of the most daring departures from tradition, Bugs Bunny will present the Oscar for best animated short film.

Fans were already camping out in bleachers outside the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, scene of this year's Academy Awards ceremony, 30 hours before the show starts.

The ceremony will eventually be seen by a billion television viewers in 90 countries.

Actresses were having final fittings for gowns, many kept secret until the event, and studios have prepared up to 200 different television commercials and newspapers advertisements, all congratulating their stars on winning.

The pressure was building on everyone from the stars nominated for best actor and actress to people hoping to win an Oscar for a documentary.

"The atmosphere just becomes tighter and tighter. It's going to be explosive tonight," said Elizabeth McBride.

Tandy, wife of her stage partner Hume Cronyn, is an even-money favourite for best actress for her role of Miss Daisy.

Irish actress Brenda Fricker, who played the indomitable mother of Christy Brown in "My Left Foot," is the 6-5 favourite to win an Oscar for best supporting actress.

## HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

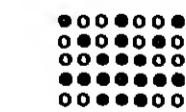
## Islam Presentation Committee would like to wish you all a blessed month of Ramadan.

NOTE: IPC is going to postpone its program: "What is Islam" till after Eid.

For more information call 2452628

Or write to: I.P.C., P.O. Box 1613, Safat 13017.

## The British Council



The British Council has a vacancy for a full-time Assistant Librarian, to be responsible for the day-to-day running of a busy lending library.

Applicants should have academic or professional qualifications in library and information studies and at least two years' relevant work experience.

Knowledge of Arabic and experience in using personal computers would be an advantage. Applications should be sent by post to reach the British Council not later than 4th April with CV and names and addresses of two referees to:

The Representative's Secretary  
The British Council  
P.O. Box 345  
13004 Safat

## Tattoo convention

At the fourth National Tattoo Association convention, Bernie Moeller, 1980 holder of the Guinness Book record for most tattoos with 8,980, tattoos a biker skull head, on the arm of Ken Sirayer. (Reuters wirephoto)

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## Hospital to save kids from Satanism

CHICAGO, March 26, (AP): Mike once lived in a black-painted room that was decorated with black candles, obituaries and satanic symbols. When he ventured out, it was to drive recklessly, drink heavily and threaten his parents.

That's when Mike ended up in one of the nation's first treatment programmes aimed at weaning disturbed teenagers from satanism. There, counsellors focus not only on losing satan but on a person's finding his strengths.

"At the time, satanism seemed to have, for Mike, a lot of answers that he couldn't find elsewhere," said Michael Weiss, a psychologist who specialises in treating adolescents. "It gave him the sense that he could control all things."

"Now that he can find other ways to feel good and have some sense of purpose ... he seems increasingly willing to put aside any satanic influence," said Weiss of Hartgrove hospital in Chicago.

Mike — not his real name — is among about a half dozen youths, ranging from ages 14 to 17, who've received treatment or are undergoing therapy at Hartgrove's Centre for the treatment of ritualistic deviance.

The centre, attached to the hospital's adolescent unit, began receiving patients in October. The in-patient programme lasts four to eight weeks, and involves individual as well as group therapy.

The programme comes in response to rising concern over young people's involvement in satanism. Many rock bands deck themselves out in satanic regalia and shriek occult lyrics.

Although many teenagers may adopt satanism only as a fad, there also have been grisly, widely publicised killings with satanic overtones in recent years, including the dismemberment and boiling of a Swiss dancer fast fall by a New Yorker.

## INTERNATIONAL

## Charges against Honecker dropped

EAST BERLIN, March 26, (Agencies): East Germany's state prosecutors said today charges of treason against former communist leader Erich Honecker and three of his top aides will be dropped, the official ADN news agency reported.

It cited the Prosecutor General's office as saying the charges could not be sustained but investigations into other crimes during their hardline rule would continue.

The others named were Honecker, former state security (Stasi) Minister Erich Mielke, Economic Chief Guenter Mittag and Joachim Herrmann, head of propaganda. All were ousted during last October and November's peaceful revolution.

tion.

The leader of East Germany's Social Democratic Party continues to deny he was an informer for the communist secret police, but he said today he would temporarily step down because of the allegations.

The embattled party leader, Ibrahim Boehme, also told a news conference he would not assume his seat in the new 400-seat parliament until the allegations have been investigated and dismissed.

Boehme, whose party finished a distant second in East Germany's first free election March 18, is the latest of several politicians to come under suspicion of hav-

ing collaborated with the Stasi secret police.

Lothar de Maiziere, the likely new premier whose Christian Democratic Union won the election, is fighting similar allegations. De Maiziere has strongly denied reports that he was a long-time Stasi informer.

The swirl of allegations is stalling efforts to form East Germany's first democratically elected government and has overshadowed the country's first week as a democracy.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) said today East German attempts to form a government must

not be delayed by accusations of collaboration with the hated Stasi security police.

"All chances should be used to form a grand coalition government in East Germany," CDU Secretary-General Volker Ruhe said after a meeting of the party leadership.

President Francois Mitterrand said yesterday that West Germany had taken too long in formally recognizing the legitimacy of the existing European borders, but he insisted that there were no major policy differences between Paris and Bonn and restated his support for German reunification.

## Gorby hints at use of force in Lithuania

Issue can hurt ties with Moscow, warns US

MOSCOW, March 26, (Agencies): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev today indicated the Soviet Union might be prepared to use force in breakaway Lithuania if lives were threatened but stressed his commitment to a peaceful solution.

US Senator Edward Kennedy told correspondents after a meeting with Gorbachev, the Kremlin leader had spent most of their 90-minute session discussing Lithuania, which declared its independence on March 11.



A Soviet military paratrooper shows a gun, one of many, confiscated from local voluntary associations helping to prepare youth for military service. (Reuter wirephoto)

### 'Lithuania would affect arms talks': US

WASHINGTON, March 26, (AP): US Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said yesterday that a Soviet military crackdown in Lithuania would have "significant negative consequences" on arms control and other US-Soviet relations.

Cheney said any use of force to crush Lithuania's independence movement "obviously would undermine a lot of the good work that's been done in recent years."

"We'd like to see the Lithuanians ... granted the same prerogative that the East Germans were: 'Self-determination,'" Cheney told the CBS television network on its programme "Face The Nation."

Cheney said an overt use of Soviet military force to crush the Lithuanians would ... have significant negative consequences in terms of US-Soviet relations."

Cheney said elections in Eastern Europe and Soviet troop withdrawals had been "very positive developments that enhance prospects for arms control agreements and improved relationships."

"President Gorbachev indicated to me that the position of the Soviet Union was that there would be no use of force unless lives were threatened," Kennedy told a news conference.

Kennedy said Gorbachev stressed his "commitment to a peaceful resolution to the issues which divide the people of the Soviet Union."

In response to a question, Kennedy said Gorbachev did not detail the nature of any threats to people in the region.

Gorbachev's remarks came as Soviet military officials refused to pull out paratroopers from key points in Lithuania.

In the continuing war of nerves between Lithuanian leaders and Moscow, the Kremlin sent troops to seize a series of public buildings, including the Communist Party headquarters.

The White House said today that US-Soviet relations could be damaged by "further actions" by Moscow in Lithuania and said it was unhappy that Soviet troops had seized buildings in the Baltic republic.

"Further actions will not lead to lessening of tensions and could have adverse international repercussions and could be counterproductive to US-Soviet relationships," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater said the United States was "heartened" by repeated public and private assurances from Moscow, including diplomatic messages over the weekend, that the Soviet Union will not use force to block Lithuania's bid for independence.

He repeated President George Bush's declaration of Friday that coercion or intimidation was "bound to backfire."

He declined to say whether the military occupation over the weekend of several buildings belonging to Lithuania's breakaway Communist Party violated Moscow's pledge against force, noting that the action did not threaten lives.

But he added: "Certainly it is a kind of force. We would be opposed to any kind of use of force ... it falls under the general framework of the pattern of intimidation that we have objected to in the past."

"It is incumbent that both sides maintain open communication and not take any actions that can be misinterpreted," Fitzwater said.

The spokesman said Soviet pressure on Lithuania has "seemed to escalate on a daily basis."

Soviet military chiefs refused to withdraw paratroopers from key Lithuanian centres as rebel leaders reported inconclusive talks on the Baltic state's independence bid.

"After coming out of this meeting, I can say the mood has changed," said Deputy Premier Romualdas Ozolas.

### \$23m stolen in bank raid

GENEVA, March 26. (Reuter): Four armed men escaped with 35 million Swiss francs (\$23 million) on Sunday in Switzerland's biggest bank robbery, police said.

The robbers burst into the Union Bank of Switzerland's branch in central Geneva and tied up two guards, a porter and a maintenance worker.

They seized keys from the guards and rifled through 10 safes holding notes weighing 200 kg (440 lbs) in the foreign currency department.

### 3 held for role in jail break: Police

Monday announced the arrest of three men suspected of flying a helicopter over a prison and trying to free a colleague who fell to his death.

The suspects were arrested Saturday and Sunday in and around Paris after being identified by the helicopter pilot and another witness, police said.

The pilot had not been told in advance of the nature of the flight on February 18, when a line was dropped from the helicopter and grabbed by Emile Dieudonne, 37, convicted for leading a series of holdups.

The escape attempt went awry when another inmate at the prison in Fresnes, south of Paris, seized Dieudonne's legs in hopes of getting an unplanned ride to freedom. (AP)

### Quake jolts Tadzhikistan

A powerful earthquake jolted Soviet Tadzhikistan and cracked buildings in several settlements, the official Soviet News Agency Tass said Monday. There were no reports of casualties.

The earthquake occurred at 6:18 pm (1418 GMT) Sunday.

Its epicentre was located 380 kilometres (235 miles) southeast of the republic's capital of Dushanbe, Tass said.

Until 1948 there were some 50 religious

orders — both male and female — in

Czechoslovakia. After the communist

## 'Special US ties always': Thatcher

LONDON, March 26, (UPI): Britain's "special relationship" with the United States is stronger than ever, according to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who said in an interview published yesterday that she talks even more frequently with President George Bush than she did with Ronald Reagan.

In an interview with the Sunday Telegraph, Thatcher dismissed suggestions that her relationship with the American president is weaker than it was when Ronald Reagan was in the White House.

The suggestions arose after Bush took office last year. They have surfaced periodically since then, particularly as observers have perceived differences of opinion over matters such as the European Economic Community.

"The special relationship is very important, and it will always be there," Thatcher said. "We have the same language, the same heritage. Straightaway, we can sit down and do business in a spirit of fundamental friendship."

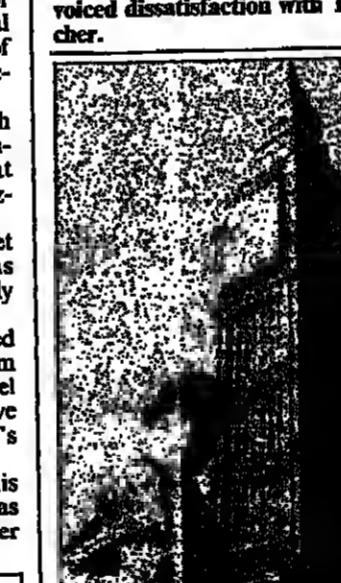
Calling the US-British relationship "just there, like the air you breathe," Thatcher said she and Bush kept in close touch through a series of visits and frequent telephone calls.

"I think I talk to George on the telephone even more than I talked to Ronald Reagan," Thatcher said.

The prime minister made her remarks during a wide-ranging interview held after a politically harrowing week for her and the ruling Conservative Party. The Conservatives suffered a resounding electoral defeat in a mid-Staffordshire by-election and opinion polls showed further popularity declines nationwide.

An opinion poll published by the Sunday Times showed the Conservatives trailing 23 points behind the opposition Labour Party, now favoured by 54 per cent of Britons.

The Conservatives garnered support from only 31 per cent of those surveyed, while 76 per cent voiced dissatisfaction with Thatcher.



Big Ben stops

Big Ben's hourly bell, one of Britain's best known sounds, responded over central London at 8 am (0700 GMT) today for the last time for up to 12 weeks.

The famous clock over the houses of parliament will continue to tell the time, but its hourly tolling has been silenced for essential repairs.

The hammer arm which strikes the bell to sound the number of bongs for every hour is suffering from metal fatigue and will be replaced by a replica, government minister Christopher Chope said last week. Picture shows a Londoner walking past Westminster Tower which houses Big Ben. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Brothers of Saint John of God face tough task of renewing order in Prague

BRNO, Czechoslovakia, March 26. (Reuter): After more than 40 years of communist persecution in Czechoslovakia the Roman Catholic hospital Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God faces an almost unsurmountable task of renewal.

"It is going to be extremely difficult to get the order off the ground again — though that does not mean we're not going to try very hard to do so," Brian O'Donnell, the order's Rome-based prior general said after a three-day visit to Brno this month.

Most had been banned from working in hospitals and worked as labourers, but those in Brno had been allowed to live in their original retreat in the monastery.



Election officials empty ballot boxes after polling of the first Hungarian free elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Hungary vote counting

## Incompetence shows

BUDAPEST, March 26, (AP): Hungary's first democratic voting nationwide in 43 years followed Western rules of fair play, but the vote counting reflected the East bloc tradition of maddening incompetence.

Hungarians like to think they're closer to modern Western Europe than to their allies in Eastern Europe, a region they derisively call "the Balkans" or "Asia."

But yesterday's election and its aftermath showed that the nation has some ways to go in reaching its aspirations for Western-style efficiency.

While international observers said they were satisfied that the voting was fair, the reporting of results was slow and filled with holes.

East Germany, which staged its first democratic national elec-

tions March 18, met the expectations of Western reporters by providing projections on the outcome shortly after the polls closed. Provisional final results were available five hours after the last vote was cast, and the official vote count was tallied by the next morning.

But the East Germans had help from West German computers and technical expertise. The Hungarians had modern computers to count the vote, but appeared incapable of using them.

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Gleaming banks of computer terminals were on prominent display both at election committee headquarters at parliament and in the election studio of the state television.

The television began a live broadcast shortly after the polls closed for a scheduled 24-hour



Tractor bearing Albanian flag leads wedding procession in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province on a day of calm after at least 100 people were injured in ethnic clashes following a mysterious poisoning scare. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Mongolia's dissident speaks out at last

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, March 26, (AP): Dr Boshigt this month became Mongolia's first Communist Party member to hand in his membership card.

His resignation coincided with growing concern among the majority ethnic Albanians that the Republic of Serbia, of which Kosovo is a part, is clamping more curbs on the southern province's autonomy.

Local people fear more clashes on Wednesday, the first anniversary of restrictions in Kosovo's autonomy in favour of Serbia that sparked riots which killed 28 people last year.

About 300 ethnic Albanians staged a protest outside a sports hall today in Pristina, Kosovo's capital, but they dispersed quietly when police arrived.

Hundreds of police armed with automatic rifles patrolled the town of Podujevo, scene of the worst violence in clashes last week. The atmosphere was tense as people lined the streets.

Radio Pristina said tanks rumbled through the town early on this morning. "We expect trouble today or tomorrow," a policeman said.

"We have formed special militia units in all communes. It can be considered completely controlled by the forces of public order and peace," Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic said in an interview in the Politika newspaper.

He said investigations were under way to identify the organizers of the "faked poisoning" and those who went on the rampage last week, beating up Serbians and Montenegrins. Several had already been arrested.

The latest disturbances erupted after hundreds of ethnic Albanians were rushed to hospital on Thursday complaining of stomach pains and nausea. Their relatives hunted out Serbs and Montenegrins shouting "you poisoned our children."

reform policies of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Boshigt, who uses just one name, said he met like-minded supporters of reform in his long-time Soviet client state between China and the Soviet Union. He and the young intellectuals organised their first rally days later, on International Human Rights Day, Dec. 10.

Thus was born the Mongolian Democratic Association, the nation's first opposition group in nearly seven decades.

"Always (before) there were people who wanted to do something," the physician said. "It was impossible."

His father, Gongorjai, was jailed for several years, then banished to the countryside when he objected to replacing Mongolia's ancient script with the Cyrillic letters used in the Soviet Union.

But voices of protest remained few and unorganised. Mongolia never developed a dissident community with its own literature and mutual support network.

Established in the mid-16th century near the Austrian border, the monastery and hospital in Valjevo, the Brothers of Saint John of God, lay order, were officially recognised by the Vatican in 1572 and now have hospitals and health care institutions in 44 countries throughout the world.

While sharing Ladislav's enthusiasm, O'Donnell saw a thorny path ahead.



Quakes rock Costa Rica

Two strong earthquakes rocked Costa Rica on Sunday morning, sending people fleeing into the streets as walls cracked and windows shattered in the capital and other cities.

A worker cleans up a store after two earthquakes hit this Central American country. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Post-Watergate days

### Depression almost cost my life, says Nixon

NEW YORK, March 26, (Reuter): Former president Richard Nixon has disclosed in a new book that a black depression almost cost him his life after the Watergate scandal toppled him from power in 1974 and he had to struggle to recover physically, spiritually and mentally.

In the book, "in the arena," excerpted in this week's *Time* magazine and scheduled to be published next month, he also takes responsibility for the low moral tone of his administration that made the Watergate cover-up possible.

He concedes that the break-in and cover-up damaged the US political process, but adds that his morality followed that of his predecessors and adversaries.

Nixon was forced to resign in August 1974 after an investigation of a 1972 break-in at the democratic national committee headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex implicated members of his administration in criminal activity.

He was admitted to hospital after then president Gerald Ford pardoned him in September and underwent surgery but could not see him off to recovery.

"I was a physical wreck; I was emotionally drained; I was mentally burned out. This time, as compared with the other crises I had endured, I could see no

reason to live, no cause to fight for. Unless a person has a reason to live for other than himself, he will die — first mentally, then emotionally, then physically," Nixon said.

"There was no precedent for what faced me in the 1970s. No one had ever been so high and fallen so low. No one before had ever resigned the presidency."

Only the support of his family and the thoughts and prayers of people, some of whom he has never met, enabled him to pull through, he said.

What happened in Watergate was wrong, he says.

"In retrospect ... I should have established a moral tone that would have made such actions unthinkable. I did not. I played by the rules of politics as I found them. Not taking a higher road than my predecessors and my adversaries was my central mistake."

He paid a heavy financial as well as psychological price for his mistakes, he said. "In the 16 years since I resigned the presidency, I have spent more than \$1.8 million in attorneys' fees to defend myself against lawsuits and to protect my rights that were threatened by government action."

But Nixon is upbeat about his life, saying: "Only when you have been at the depths can you truly appreciate the heights."

### US steps up supplies to Angolan Unita rebels

KINSHASA, March 26, (AP): The United States has stepped up support for anti-Marxist Angolan rebels, shipping thousands of gallons (litres) of fuel and specially equipped four-wheel-drive vehicles through this airport, a US diplomatic source said during the weekend.

Three Toyota Landcruisers are being stripped daily here and outfitted with heavy machine guns. They (the rebels) are going to use them for hit-and-run attacks, said the source, who declined to be named.

The vehicles are considered ideal for travelling on the sand and scrub-covered roads in southeastern Angola, site of most of the fighting in the 15-year-old civil war.

The source said at least 120,000 gallons of diesel fuel were being shipped to Jonas Savimbi's Unita (National

Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels.

Savimbi asked for gasoline-powered vehicles but transport of gasoline was considered too dangerous, the source added.

The rebels in recent months have been facing one of the biggest offensives of the war from the Soviet- and Cuban-backed Angolan government.

The United States has pledged to support Savimbi until Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos agrees to "national reconciliation" — short-hand for accepting negotiations that will lead to power-sharing with Unita.

During last week's tour of southern Africa by US Secretary of State James Baker, a senior official travelling with the secretary reaffirmed his government would not permit the Angolan government to crush Savimbi's rebels.

NDJAMENA, March 26, (AP): When wild-haired Chadian warriors from the north descended on this sleepy capital a decade ago, they ran bayonets through books and strung rolls of film from the Normandie cinema through the trees on avenue Charles de Gaulle.

Their enemies from the south or the east or west fired mortars into the country's only mainframe computer and ransacked schools and government offices.

The complex civil strife that consumed nearly 20 of Chad's 30 years of independence from 1968 to 1987 laid waste to more than just homes and buildings. It de-

### Minister quits in row over drug war

BOGOTA, March 26, (Agencies): Colombian Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds resigned yesterday in a bitter quarrel over government drug policies and said his departure was a victory for the country's powerful cocaine traffickers.

Lemos, considered Colombia's toughest anti-drug minister, also said President Virgilio Barco had not defended him against allegations that he helped cause Thursday's murder of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo.

Barco named former attorney-general Serpa Uribe to replace Lemos, saying Uribe had a "clear and determined position against drug trafficking and terrorism."

The President thanked Lemos for being "an example of firmness and bravery".

In a two-page letter to Barco, Lemos said he could not continue in office without the support of the President and his government.

"Neither you, nor the government raised your voice to reject these impositions (of his involvement in the assassination), repudiate them and defend a man of good will," he said.

"In certain areas inside the government itself, the attitude in the face of drug trafficking has been changing almost imperceptibly and now it is not the same, intransigent and firm policy that it was in December."

"I fear that with my departure from the ministry the drug traffickers and those who help them have obtained a victory," Lemos said.

Colombia has been locked since August in a war with cocaine traffickers in which some 200 people have died.

Jaramillo, candidate of the Leftist Patriotic Union (UP), was assassinated by a 16-year-old assassin at Bogota's main airport.

Shortly before Jaramillo's murder, Lemos accused the UP of having close links with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, one of the country's three main guerrilla groups.

The UP and other opposition parties charged that Lemos' comments had set up the lawyer for assassination.

Barco said on Sunday he was obliged to publicly defend the integrity of the UP which "has demonstrated its rejection of violence from wherever it comes."

Some 1,100 UP members have been murdered since 1985.

Meanwhile, the ruling Liberal Party held its convention in Bogota and formally nominated Cesar Gaviria, 43, for president.

Gaviria, who won a March 11 primary with 51 per cent of the vote, will face Rodrigo Lloreda, the candidate for the opposition Conservative Party, in general elections scheduled for May 27.

The convention delegates observed a minute of silence for Jaramillo and Luis Carlos Galan, a Liberal Party candidate of Colombia, one of the country's three main guerrilla groups.

His death prompted Barco's anti-narcotics offensive.

Gaviria served as Galan's campaign manager.

Jaramillo, 36, was fatally wounded at Bogota's airport on Thursday.

He was buried yesterday in Manizales after thousands of Patriotic Union supporters marched through the city's streets.

His death prompted the Conservatives and the Patriotic Union to call for a postponement of the elections while the government takes additional measures to protect candidates.

But Gaviria, heavily favoured to win, said they should be held on schedule. "The only antidote for violence is more democracy," he said in his acceptance speech.

The candidate repeated his pledge to fight traffickers. He said an effective battle requires reforming the judicial system so it can bring cocaine traffickers to justice.

In the past, traffickers have been able to evade justice by bribing, threatening and killing judges.

serves meals and beer in her two-room mud-brick house in Bololo neighbourhood and works as a prostitute at feeling and equinox, two nightclubs catering to French soldiers.

About 1,000 soldiers, members of a French presence that has been maintained off and on since independence in 1960, are part of operation Sparrowhawk, meant to be a buffer against Libyan attacks south of the 16th parallel.

In a scrapbook bearing the name of the French contingent in gold letters, Augustine has saved photos from a trip to France where she tried to become a computer

# The un-Happy Land

### Only DJ survives inferno: 'It was a fire trap'

NEW YORK, March 26, (Agencies): In the club called Happy Land, the crowd danced and drank late into the night, enjoying the calypso, reggae and salsa sounds played by an amiable disc jockey, unaware they were spending the last moments of their lives.

About 3.30 am on Sunday (0830 GMT) the fire broke — sending flames through the first floor of the unlicensed, two-storey social club, pumping acrid smoke up the only stairway, overcoming the dancers and killing at least 87 people as they fought to flee.

Only the disc jockey survived.

The DJ's business partner, Peter Amaya, 30, said Happy Land was a "comfortable place where adults could go and have a drink and dance a little. I should have been there

last night but my band had a gig."

The DJ, Ruben Valladares, was there when the fire broke out and managed to burst through the flames to escape New York City's worst fire since 1911, but only at a tremendous cost.

His wife, Francis, said when she saw him in the hospital she couldn't talk. "He had bad sores all over his face. It was so terrible." She turned away and wept.

But her consolation was that her husband survived, unlike so many others.

The relatives of the dead sat on Sunday morning in a schoolhouse across the street from the burned-out social club. They looked at rows of grisly snapshots, colour photos of

#### Sidelights

**American dream shattered:** Two and one-half years ago, Alva Romero left Honduras full of hope that life would be better in the United States.

Her dreams came crashing down on Sunday when six members of her family were killed in a fire at an illegal social club that claimed a total of 87 lives.

"We came here to better ourselves but this is what we get," a grief-stricken Romero said moments after confirming that her two brothers, a sister, her daughter, a cousin and a niece had perished in the early morning fire at the Happy Land Club.

It wasn't political upheaval or severe dissatisfaction with Honduras that brought her here, she said. It was, quite simply opportunity.

"This is America. We all would have a chance to do better here," she said as she dabbed her eyes. "Now, I don't know...."

Here, the 34-year-old woman worked in people's homes, helping the elderly and sick to feed and clothe themselves.

But on Sunday, it was friends and relatives who helped Romero at a nearby school, where the bereaved were taken. The brothers were 33 and 21 years old; the sister, daughter and cousin all were 18; the niece, 17. Her husband had remained in Honduras.

"They had been to the club before and they liked it," Romero said. "It had been three weeks since they had been there."

"And, last night," she said, her voice choking with emotion, "last night, they all decided to go back to the club, I don't know why."

Nelson Moll, a Red Cross volunteer, said Romero was one of the first to show up at the school, where photographs of the dead were displayed.

When she saw the pictures of her family, Romero slumped forward, devastated by the news.

"She looked at the pictures and she just broke down pretty bad," he said.

Six hours later, after viewing the photographs and the bodies at the morgue, a still-shocked Romero passively, almost distantly, answered reporters' questions.

Will she stay in the United States?

"I don't know. Everything is changed. I don't know." (AP)

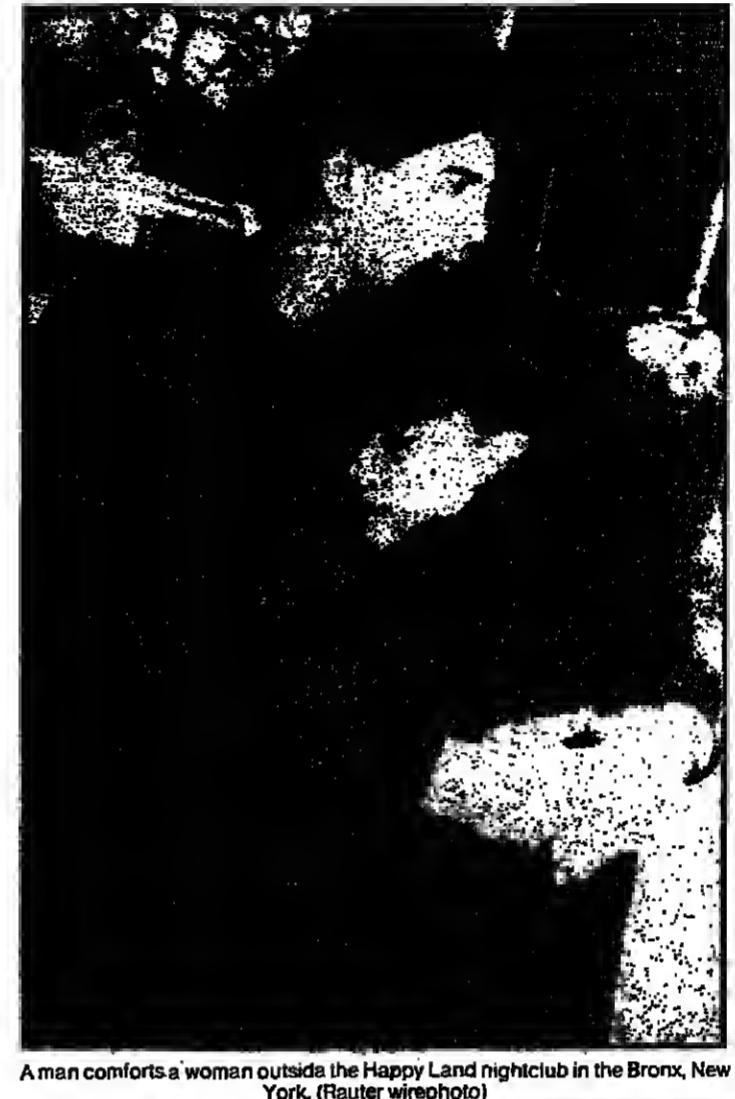
**Stark symbol of tragedy:** The Honduran flag draped over a fence at public school 67 stood as a stark symbol of tragedy in a poor immigrant neighbourhood.

Many of the 87 victims killed in a fire at the Happy Land Club across the street were immigrants from Honduras and the Dominican Republic. Many shared a common vision.

"They tried to live the American dream to get a job and make something of themselves," said Cheo Garcia, who patronised the unlicensed club.

"They all dreamed of returning home—but with more money," said Miguel Reyes, coach of the C.D. Adriana amateur soccer team.

Reyes counted three team members among the dead, all natives of Puerto Cortez, Honduras.



A man comforts a woman outside the Happy Land nightclub in the Bronx, New York. (Reuter wirephoto)



Firemen outside the Happy Land nightclub in the Bronx, New York. (Reuter wirephoto)

#### Police open fire

### 15 killed in SA factional fighting

JOHANNESBURG, March 26, (Agencies): Insurgents attacked a government building and a power station with grenades and mines, and up to 15 people were killed in black factional fighting, according to police and press reports today.

Meanwhile, police used shotguns and tear gas today to disperse about 2,000 protesters who stormed the police station in Sharpeville outside Johannesburg after police blocked a trade union march, eyewitnesses said. No injuries were reported.

Police opened fire on anti-government demonstrators in the black township of Sebokeng south of Johannesburg today, killing at least two people and injuring more than 300, hospital officials and witnesses said.

Provincial authorities said the local hospital was swamped with casualties after demonstrators attacked and set ablaze municipal offices in Sebokeng, one of six black townships in the so-called Vaal Triangle south of Johannesburg.

Police opened fire to disperse supporters of the African National Congress-linked United Democratic Front while attempting to march on regional offices of the ruling national party in the nearby city of Vereeniging.

The provincial administration reported two people dead on arrival at Sebokeng hospital, three others critically wounded and more than 300 treated for injuries. Thirty victims were admitted to the hospital.

Police said suspected African National Congress guerrillas fired two rocket-propelled grenades last night at town council

**ANC group, worried by security, delays travel**

LUSAKA, March 26, (Reuter): Worries about security, failure to secure flight bookings, forced African National Congress (ANC) leaders to postpone their flight to Johannesburg yesterday, a highly placed ANC source said today.

The source said the cancellation of the journey by the group of 19 followed a report to the ANC's policy-making national executive committee by ANC chief of intelligence Jacob Zuma who returned to Lusaka on Friday from a three-day trip to South Africa.

"Jacob Zuma went to check on the security situation in the country and when he came back they sat and talked and decided against the trip being made on Sunday," the source said.

Earlier press reports had said that the members of the ANC, the main black group fighting to end white minority rule and sharing political power with blacks.

President F.W. de Klerk legalised the ANC and other black opposition groups last month to try and clear the way for talks on drafting a new constitution.

The state-run South African Broadcasting Corporation said eight people were killed and nine injured in a faction fight yesterday near Tugela ferry.

Police reports said at least seven people were killed yesterday in fighting between rival black factions in the eastern province of Natal.



A small boy chants anti-apartheid slogans and waves an African National Congress flag at an anti-apartheid rally in Trafalgar Square. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Chadian civil war leaves citizens with little education and broken dreams

NDJAMENA, March 26, (AP): When wild-haired Chadian warriors from the north descended on this sleepy capital a decade ago, they ran bayonets through books and strung rolls of film from the Normandie cinema through the trees on avenue Charles de Gaulle.

Their enemies from the south or the east or west fired mortars into the country's only mainframe computer and ransacked schools and government offices.

The complex civil strife that consumed nearly 20 of Chad's 30 years of independence from 1968 to 1987 laid waste to more than just homes and buildings. It de-

# Law loopholes allow Aids vaccine testing

LOS ANGELES, March 26. (Reuters): A little-known California law is allowing drug companies to test Aids vaccines without going through cumbersome US Food and Drug Administration procedures which critics say could hold up potentially life-saving measures for years.

Two drugs intended to combat the disease are already being tested on humans under California's "mini-FDA" law and a third, a vaccine aimed at creating immunity to the deadly disease, will shortly start similar trials.

It is proposed that a controversial French abortion pill be tested under the state law which, in effect, bypasses the red tape surrounding federal protocols for drug testing and evaluation.

Professor Allan Goldstein, the developer of the HGP-30 vaccine, which will start trials in California some time in May, said his company "gave up on the FDA process out of frustration."

He stressed that California's requirements for testing were no less stringent than those of the FDA, but there was "less red tape" attached.

A spokeswoman for Dr Jonas Salk, the 75-year-old polio vaccine pioneer, whose anti-Aids drug is currently being tested as a possible treatment for people already infected with the HIV virus, said Salk went to the California authorities before

approaching the FDA in Washington.

"We decided it was much more expeditious to go straight to the California authorities and start testing here," said Joan Abramson.

A third possible Aids treatment has started testing in California, but it is reported to have become snarled up in a patent dispute.

The California law, originally passed in 1939, allows drug companies to test products in the state without going through Washington, providing no interstate commerce is involved.

In other words the drug must be totally manufactured and tested in California.

The law was expanded two years ago to allow the testing of Aids drugs.

Goldstein, professor and chairman of the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at the George Washington University Medical Centre in Washington, said even the marine molluscs known as limpets, which are used in the production of his synthetic vaccine, were being taken from the California coastline.

Goldstein called the California law "a credit to the state," and said his frustration with authorities in Washington stemmed from the fact that "this is such a terrible disease we want to move as quickly as possible (to find a cure or prevention)."

HGP-30 is already being tested in England with promising results, Goldstein said.

He said the vaccine, which is intended to build up immunity to the HIV virus, the precursor of Aids, would be tested on 24 healthy volunteers.

Salk's drug, in contrast, is aimed at those already infected with the HIV virus. It is intended to prevent further deterioration of the immune system with periodic injections.

About 100 Californians have been tested with the drug and the FDA in Washington recently sanctioned the expansion of testing to a further 60 people outside the state.

Salk has also been given permission by California to test 10 people in the state who are not infected.

Salk, whose Salk Institute is based in San Diego, California, hopes that anti-bodies created by the drug in healthy volunteers can be extracted and used in HIV patients.

The proportion of drug addicts carrying the Aids virus is likely to be much lower than feared, according to a pilot study that cited the free distribution of syringes as a major factor in preventing the spread of the deadly disease.

The Zurich Aids Intervention project said its survey published Thursday suggested 15-20 per

cent of all hard drug users were infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus that leads to Aids.

Earlier estimates put the level of infection as high as 60-80 per cent.

The survey was carried out in a Zurich park that has become the country's most notorious gathering point for drug users.

Since the anti-Aids project was launched in Plazza Park one year ago, doctors and social workers have handed out 1.4 million syringes, 500,000 replacement needles and 50,000 condoms, one of the project's leaders said.

Prof Peter Grob told a press conference that the exchange of up to 6,400 syringes a day had helped combat the "daily spread of Aids."

• Aids patients taking an experimental drug under their own doctors' supervision have been dying at more than 10 times the rate of those taking the drug in clinical tests, the New York Times reported.

Out of 8,000 patients taking the new drug in an expanded distribution programme, 290 have died, the newspaper said.

• In clinical trials by the drug's manufacturer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, only two of the 700 patients taking DDI, or dideoxyinosine, have died, the company said.

• State funds for Aids research in Switzerland, which has the highest case rate per capita in Europe, are to be more than doubled in the next two years, the government has proposed.

The federal executive called on parliament to

approve an increase in credits from \$6 to \$16 million Swiss francs (\$10.7 million) to help finance the expanded access programme last August after people with Aids and their supporters demanded the drug be made available through private doctors even before it was fully tested.

The proposal follows a recommendation by a special government commission which warned in most of the projects would have to be abandoned unless there would be additional funds.

The projects include a pathological study to conduct anonymous in five hospitals with 1,500 carriers of the HIV virus that cause Aids. Among the projects are clinical studies of HIV-infected pregnant women.

• A secret government inquiry into the research by America's leading Aids scientist uncovered evidence that he was not the first to discover the deadly virus, as the United States has claimed, newspaper reported.

But an internal report issued by the National Cancer Institute after the inquiry failed to vindicate Robert C. Gallo was the first to discover the Aids virus, the Chicago Tribune reported.

As a result of the omission, legal briefs filed by the government in the US Court of Claims and before the patent and trademark office contained repeated misstatements of fact about Gallo's research, the Tribune said.

## Half of deaths due to arrhythmia

# Heart rhythm drugs can be dangerous

DALLAS, (UPI): Widely used drugs to treat irregular heart rhythms may actually make some patients with congestive heart failure worse and possibly increase their risk of sudden death, a study showed.

The report is the second in recent months pointing out the possible danger of using anti-arrhythmic agents to control abnormal heartbeats, which are a frequent contributor to sudden death.

Patients should not stop taking an anti-arrhythmic drug without consulting their physicians, researchers said, but they should ask doctors to reevaluate their therapy.

The latest study at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York found that three anti-arrhythmic drugs had an adverse effect on some patients with congestive heart failure.

The report in the March issue of *Circulation*, an American Heart Association publication, compared the effects of procainamide, which has been on the market for more than 20 years, and two new, supposedly safer classes of drugs, tocainide and encainide.

The study found congestive heart failure grew worse in six of the 21 patients when they were giving encainide; in seven patients when given tocainide, and two of the 21 when given procainamide.

Two new Salvos Wednesday in the confusing war of research over food fiber arrived at the same conclusion: "It's good for you."

The report was filed by Public Citizen, a non-profit watchdog group founded by consumer activist Ralph Nader, on behalf of the more than 80,000 individuals who have had Pfizer's Shiley heart valve implanted in their chests.

The study found that the fiber helped those with mildly to moderately elevated cholesterol levels. And while the improvement was modest, it might be enough to bring some people's cholesterol into the safe range.

A private watchdog group on Wednesday filed a class action lawsuit against Pfizer Inc., the maker of an artificial heart valve that has been blamed for hundreds of deaths.

The lawsuit was filed by Public Citizen, a non-profit watchdog group founded by consumer activist Ralph Nader, on behalf of the more than 80,000 individuals who have had Pfizer's Shiley heart valve implanted in their chests.

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## Gunmen kill 3 Afghan rebel leaders

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, March 26, (Agencies): Gunmen killed three Afghan rebel commanders and three bodyguards yesterday near the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar, rebel sources said.

The men belonged to the Harakat Inqilabi-Islami guerrilla party of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, one of six groups forming the Pakistan-based rebel government fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Among the dead were Mohammad Naseeb Akhundzada, Harakat commander for the southern province of Helmand, Mani Jamadar of the northern provinces of Jozjan, and Nazim Ahmad Akhundzada, commander for Band Katskai area of Helmand.

They were travelling by jeep from Peshawar to the Harakat camp at Cherat in the east when gunmen opened fire, killing them instantly.

An Afghan rebel commander, who was notorious for his opium poppy production in southern Afghanistan, was killed yesterday in an ambush outside the border city of Peshawar, Western diplomats said.

Nazim Akhundzada and six heavily armed bodyguards were gunned down outside a compound, 10 miles (16 km) east of Peshawar, said diplomatic sources, who spoke on condition that they not be identified.

Akhundzada's drug empire took in most of Afghanistan's southern province of Helmand, Afghan and diplomatic sources said.

Late last year Akhundzada reportedly asked the United States for \$2 million a month to stop growing opium poppies. US embassy officials in Islamabad dismissed the report.

"It just wasn't true," said a US diplomat who declined to be identified. "He was told that because he was growing poppies we couldn't deal with him at all."

"He was a strong, traditional mushi," said Hamid Karzai, a rebel spokesman. "He was one of Harakat's strongest and most powerful commanders."

Last year Akhundzada waged a bloody drug war in Helmand province against a rival commander, who belonged to Rasul Sayyaf's fundamentalist Ittihad-I-Islami or Islamic Unity party.

The turf battle reportedly left scores dead and Sayyaf's commander eventually abandoned the rebels and joined the government.

Akhundzada's death came five days after one of Sayyaf's field commanders, Paluza Mohammad, was killed outside Peshawar, said Qaribor Saeed, a spokesman for Helemaytar's party.

**Nine Swedes missing in Red Sea**

KHARTOUM, Sudan, March 26, (AP): Nine Swedish tourists disappeared while diving in the Red Sea off Sudan's coast last week, a government newspaper reported today.

Al Kuwai Al Musallal, which speaks for the armed forces, said the tourists vanished on Wednesday in the scenic Romeo area famous for its coral reefs.

The area lies north of Port Sudan, the country's main Red Sea outlet 420 miles (672 km) northeast of Khartoum. It is considered a tourist attraction, but sharks occasionally have been seen there.

The newspaper said Sudanese navy men still were searching for the Swedes. It gave no other details.

## Israel airs 'love and the intifada' affair

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 26, (AP): Viewers got the latest, delicious detail on television yesterday about the affair that is scandalising Israel — the case of the Israeli Army captain suspended from his job over alleged trysting with a young Palestinian woman.

The wronged wife in what's being called the "love and the intifada" affair appeared as a blacked-out figure on the evening TV news to support her husband's story that he was really trying to recruit the dark-haired Arab woman an informant.

A military source yesterday confirmed that Arik Mattar, who was a company commander for Israel's military government in the occupied West Bank, is being investigated on suspicion of "inappropriate behaviour."

According to Israeli newspaper, Mattar held highly secret rendezvous with the young woman from

## Suspense over Israeli leader's speech

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 26, (UPI): Excitement and controversy surrounded preparations for a speech by the ultra-orthodox spiritual leader who guides two political parties holding critical votes in the formation of Israel's next government.

Scalpers sold tickets for 10 times their price to the sold-out Degel Hatorah annual party convention where Rabbi Eliezer Schach was expected to pronounce whether the ultra-orthodox party would join Labour Party leader Shimon Peres in a coalition government or back Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Peres orchestrated the no-confidence motion that brought down the Shamir government March 15 and has been given the mandate to try to form Israel's next coalition. Given the current alignment of parties in the 120-member Israeli Parliament, Labour and Likud would have the same amount of votes if Degel Hatorah and Shas, another ultra-orthodox party Schach guides, back Shamir.

The National Journalists Association yesterday sharply criticised Degel Hatorah for forbidding women journalists to attend the convention. Ultra-orthodox Jewish doctrine forbids the assembly of

males and females together at public functions.

More than 10,000 tickets were sold for \$5 to the males-only convention held at a Tel Aviv basketball stadium. For women who want to hear the elderly rabbi's speak, simultaneous broadcasts were expected to be arranged in auditoriums in Jerusalem and the ultra-orthodox community of Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv.

The Degel Hatorah convention was scheduled before the present government crisis, but has since taken on great political implications as Israel's two major political parties vie for support of the ultra-orthodox.

Shas and Degel Hatorah have eight seats in Israel's Parliament, the Knesset. A third ultra-orthodox party, Agudat Israel, holds five seats and has indicated its support for Labour but has not signed a final coalition agreement.

Hardline Rabbi Meir Kahane, whose party was banned from Parliament for racism, announced plans today for a political comeback.

The former parliamentarian told a news conference ahead of his trial next week for inciting hatred that his Kach Party would fight the next election.

## 21-gun salute as PLO leader begins India visit

## Arafat warns of Mideast war

BEIRUT, March 26, (UPI): Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said in remarks published today that the Middle East would witness another devastating war unless Palestinians were soon granted self-determination.

Arafat also called on India and Pakistan to resolve through peaceful negotiations their protracted dispute over Kashmir.

The PLO chief, who is recognised by India as the president of the independent nation of Palestine, was accorded the full honours of a visiting head of state.

Arafat drove up in a motorcade to the British-built presidential palace and his vehicle was escorted by horse-mounted lancers in turbans and red uniforms from the front gates into the sprawling forecourt of the massive dome-topped building.

A 21-gun salute boomed out as he was greeted by Prime Minister V.P. Singh, President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and other senior officials. He then inspected a military honour guard.

Arafat later held talks with Singh on the situation in the Middle East and on South Asian issues. During his three-day visit, he was also to receive the 1988 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for international understanding.

Asked about the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and fears that many of them would be settled in the West Bank, Arafat said: "We will continue to deal with our friends in Moscow for the sake of our people and at the same time with respect for the human rights."

Tomorrow he is scheduled to fly to Calcutta to visit Mother Teresa, winner of the 1979 Nobel peace prize. In 1982, at the height of the Israeli war against the PLO, the Yugoslav-born nun went to West Beirut to rescue mentally retarded children who were trapped in a hospital on the edge of a Palestinian refugee camp near the Israeli front line.

US Secretary of State James Baker has been pushing for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, but the issue has led to the fall of Israel's ruling coalition, and continuing uncertainty about whether the US-sponsored plan will get off the ground.

Arafat warned that Israel was using the influx of Soviet Jews to press ahead with plans for a greater Israel.

The warning came after earlier remarks from Israel's Likud Party leader Yitzhak Shamir who was quoted as saying a "greater Israel" was needed to cope with the expected influx of Jewish migrants.

"It is an issue that can damage Arab public opinion, which is extremely sensitive on this question, and could block attempts to engage the Middle East peace process," Ghazali said.

"The US Senate resolution is rejected, condemned, as devoted to the interests of 'Zionism,' upper house speaker Ahmad Lawzi told the Associated Press in an interview.

Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali told Reuters and Paris-based Radio Ahmend last night that a massive influx of Soviet Jews to Israel was a very serious matter that revived the question of a "greater Israel."

"The resolution is very serious and violates international law and Palestinian human rights," Abderrazak El Yahiya, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, told the Qatar News Agency.

"An Arab-Islamic summit should be convened to discuss this serious matter and take a united stand on it," said Yahiya before leaving Dohe after a four-day visit.

"The Middle East region will witness a devastating (Arab-Israeli) war if a just and overall peace is not achieved, and if the Palestinians do not preserve their national right to establish an independent state," the Jordanian Ad Dustour newspaper quoted Arafat as saying in Baghdad.



swamy Venkataraman at New Delhi airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Arabs condemn US move

ALGIERS, March 26, (Agencies): Algeria has called the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel a threat to Middle East peace and urged the United States and Europe to let them go to the West instead.

Iraq today deplored the Senate resolution agreeing that occupied Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel and said it was a challenge to all Muslims and Arabs. The Organisation of Islamic Conference has condemned the same.

A Foreign Ministry statement said the resolution was "a call one which ignores the rights of the Palestinian and Arab people and challenges the sentiments of the entire Muslim world."

It urged the world to condemn the resolution.

In Amman parliament members and Palestinian officials yesterday joined the OIC in condemning the Senate's resolution and warned it will harm US interests in the region.

Jordanian newspapers also lashed out at the resolution yesterday. The largest-circulation Arabic-language daily Al Rai termed the resolution "unfair, unbalanced and will hinder the Middle East peace efforts."

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Ghazali said Washington should end quota restrictions on Jewish immigrants and Moscow should give them passports rather than travel passes and freedom to settle in the country of their choice.

"Our position is not to dictate to the Soviet Union or any other country restrictions on the circulation of European Jews," Ghazali said.

"But if one maintains quotas on the one hand and mechanisms pushing for a kind of forced immigration on the other, we just believe in a kind of concerned operation that has nothing to do with the spirit of human rights," Ghazali said.

He also urged European countries to help solve the problem which has become a major focus of Arab diplomacy.

The OIC in a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia, called the resolution a challenge to Muslims and a "trap set in an irresponsible manner on the path of peace."

It said the resolution passed on Thursday was "a deliberate attempt to reinforce the stands of those who, even to Israel, oppose in an unreasonable and obstinate manner efforts ... on the international level to encourage the peace process ... in the Middle East."

A PLO leader said today the US Senate's view that Jerusalem was Israel's capital was very serious and an Arab-Islamic summit should investigate.

"The resolution is very serious and violates international law and Palestinian human rights," Abderrazak El Yahiya, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's executive committee, told the Qatar News Agency.

"An Arab-Islamic summit should be convened to discuss this serious matter and take a united stand on it," said Yahiya before leaving Dohe after a four-day visit.

The Israeli enemy will now go on implementing his plan for a greater Israel ... following the migration of Jews from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and Ethiopia," Arafat was quoted as saying.

Arafat claimed that a "greater Israel" would include "Palestine, Jordan and large parts of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia," and that the first step in implementation of such a plan would be the annexation of Jordan.

The PLO leader said Israel was looking to destabilise Jordan and turn it into a "second Lebanon," as for what he called the creation of a substitute homeland in Jordan for Palestinians.

Arafat suggested a PLO-Jordanian confederation within the framework of two independent states, which preserved Jordanian and Palestinian Arab identities, as the only possible response to Israel.

Mahjoub said the incidents in Menia had shown how "a small spark starts big fires." He said the government had decided to send convoys of Muslim clergymen and Christian church leaders to calm people down and preach brotherhood and co-operation.

Egypt has never before run joint Christian and Muslim peace campaigns, although a convoy of Muslims has been touring the country for the past year.

## Egypt bid to calm down inter-communal tension

CAIRO, March 26, (Reuter): Egypt announced today it would send peace caravans of Christian and Muslim leaders across the country in a bid to calm inter-communal tension.

"We will not accept that Egypt be turned into another Lebanon," Religious Affairs Minister Mohammed Mahjoub told a conference of Muslim and Christian clergymen.

Sectarian strife is rare in Egypt. But this month rumours that Christians were using Muslim girls as prostitutes prompted two weeks of violence in the rural province of Menia in upper Egypt.

A total 337 people were arrested after various incidents in which Muslim hardliners, incensed by the rumours, set fire to Christian houses, churches, shops and cars.

Interior Minister Mohammed Abd Al-Halim, giving the first official account of the troubles, told parliament yesterday that there was no truth to the prostitution stories.

Mahjoub said the incidents in Menia had shown how "a small spark starts big fires." He said the government had decided to send convoys of Muslim clergymen and Christian church leaders to calm people down and preach brotherhood and co-operation.

Egypt has never before run joint Christian and Muslim peace campaigns, although a convoy of Muslims has been touring the country for the past year.

## Bourguiba restless in retirement

TUNIS, March 26, (Reuter): Former Tunisian president Habib Bourguiba is growing restless in compulsory retirement and has been trying to seek clarifications on his legal status, family sources said today.

Bourguiba, who ruled Tunisia from independence in 1956 until removed on grounds of senility in 1987, is living under close watch in a government house in the coastal town of Monastir. He is at least 86 years old.

He has not been charged with any offence and the authorities say he is free to go anywhere and see anyone he wishes.

But Bourguiba has twice tried to send letters to the Public Prosecutor's Department asking it to say if he is a free man.

The opposition parties accuse the government and ruling party of continuing practices associated with a one-party state.

They say the state-run media largely ignores the opposition and that the administration interfered in the 1989 elections.

The government says the only problem is that the opposition parties have not sold their ideas to the public.

Under the present system for parliamentary elections, the party which wins the most votes in a constituency takes all the seats there. A constituency may have up to nine members.

The opposition parties accuse

the

# Businesses catering to Asians mushroom

## Sheer numbers create huge profits

MYRIAD commercial establishments and restaurants totally depending on Asian shoppers has mushroomed in Kuwait's vital trade areas like the Capital and Fahheel. Asians congregate at these places which have become a social gathering area and play an important role in the social life style away from home for many expatriate Asian workers and labourers.

What really intrigues one is the fact that all these establishments co-exist to a form of unity hard to describe, yet all work hard to compete with the large array of cheap goods displayed.

One could consider these Asian markets, which cater only to the exclusive needs of Asians as an economical extension of the cultural and social presence of a cross-section of Asians in Kuwait. Pointingly, many well-to-do Kuwaitis have benefited from the proliferation of these Asian business enterprises. The law makes it compul-

sory for any establishment to have a Kuwaiti sponsor and many perceiving and enterprising Kuwaitis have seen the monetary potentials and have encashed on it by opening shops with specific items tailored to the needs of Asians.

### Increase

The rapid increase of Asian communities in Kuwait, led to an increase in the purchase power of these communities on a collective basis. Consequently, large numbers of merchants have entered this market and many have stated that the geographic concentration of these markets which serve these communities is the main factor behind their commercial success.

Other merchants stated that despite the small size of Asian purchase power resulting from their penchant for high-level of savings, they still contribute significantly to a large business turnover in the area of profits.

Owners of shops located in Fahd Al Salem Street stated that they mainly concentrate on commodities purchased by housemaids and labourers. On being queried as to the reasons all shops are located one next to the other, a merchant explained that these categories of workers have very little time to shop and thus close proximity of shops, creates a fast shopping environment for these groups.

Additionally, the merchant pointed out that most of these shops are located near bus stops and transportation facilities to the rest of Kuwait areas.

### Purchase power

A number of Asians interviewed stressed that these shops lighten the feeling of homesickness since they are away from their homes. Most Asians interviewed stated that what most attracts them to these shops is the availability of Asian

workers at these shops which makes communicating that much easier.

Another merchant said that among Asians, Filipinos are the highest spenders, though they tend to spend more money relative to their salaries. In contrast, other Asians purchasing power is low mainly due to their habit of saving, coupled with the fact that they are not paid their salaries on a regular basis.

Florence Santos is considered one of the successful businesswomen in the local market. She was able to pave her way through the local market by beginning her professional career as a simple saleswoman and moving up the corporate ladder to become manager of a number of shops and restaurants. She also owns a hair saloon for women and men. She said that the idea of establishing a commercial project successfully was based on serving Asians living in Kuwait.

### GCC secretariat

## Plan to computerise information

THE director of information centre at the Secretariat of GCC Mohammed Al Shatti has said that centre is looking forward to carrying out a pioneer project to store official documents and papers of the secretariat and another to link the main conference hall to directly record decisions and recommendations taken at meetings.

To achieve this aim, computers will be used in co-ordination with all other national computer centres in the GCC states. He added that this project will be carried out through the establishment of a unified information bank to avoid repetition of activities of the computer centres.

Shatti pointed out that centre offers information and data for the secretariat of GCC quickly and is developing its relations with national computer centres in the GCC states to achieve technical and administrative integration among these centres.

This will reduce and guide Gulf spending in order to direct these spending to other various activities. But he added that technical co-operation between the computer centres in the GCC states and the computer centre of GCC secretariat did not bear fruits due to scarcity of technical specialists in the leading posts of Gulf computer centres and to the difference of aims and technical and manpower abilities.

### Kuwait exhibition

BELGRADE, March 26 (Kuwa): Kuwaiti paintings and sculptures will be displayed at an exhibition to be inaugurated at an

The external cultural relations department to Yugoslavia organised the exhibition in co-operation with Kuwait's embassy here, will display paintings, sculptures, bedouin weavings and other traditional arts.

During the ten-day fair, a prepared report on types of Kuwaiti popular arts would be circulated to visitors.



Charity bazaar

Deputy director-general of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, Hormoud Al Mudaf opened a charity bazaar organised by the girls students of the College of Education. The bazaar will continue till Wednesday at the girls college of education in Shamiya.

## Realistic recommendations formulated for masterplan

THE Ministry of Planning organised a show to demonstrate the third revision of the masterplan of the state.

The assistant undersecretary of the Ministry of Planning for progress and follow up Bader Al Bahar explained the purpose of the show and aims of the masterplan in relation to the five-year-plan.

### Utilities

The studies also included the public transportation network, improving measures of planning, development, environmental studies, entertainment projects, new cities, border settlements, government housing and beaches and islands.

### Organisational structure

The official said that the planning ministry included the analysis of the previous masterplans in the required consultative services and explained the difficulties that prevented authorities from applying these plans accurately. He added that the ministry in co-operation with the municipality had formulated more realistic plans and recommendations to improve the methods of practical application, including undertaking basic studies on land usage.

res and manual industries as well as using modern technology.

Also speaking on the occasion, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Minister of State for Municipal Affairs called for co-ordination between the third revision of the masterplan and the long term strategy and five-year-plan and hoped that the masterplan will be revised every five years.

The masterplan should take into consideration human, social and Kuwaiti traditional environmental dimensions for Kuwaiti society, the official said.

The Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Naser Al Roudhan commented that the third revision should take cognisance of the requirements of housing services in view of the Public Housing Authority's shortcomings in offering adequate land for housing projects.

## New utilities for Ahmadi

THE deputy chairman of Ahmadi Government's Council Sultan Ben Hethlai has said that the construction of four flyovers for pedestrians in the middle of Sabahiya area are being studied. The council also studied the Dahiya Centre and maintenance works at houses of Dhair area. The council will also discuss the ability to open branches for different faculties and institutes at Ahmadi Governorate and to facilitate transportation to these places, he said.

Ben Hethlai pointed out that council of Ahmadi Governorate decided to establish a hospital for the governorate and to open the health centres after midnight. There is an intention to build a new health centre to serve people at Abu-Holafia area and to build a public library for pupils in Riggia area, he added.

## KU develops student affairs

THE dean of the Faculty of Arts Dr Sulaiman Al Bader has said that his three-fold plan to improve and develop performance and standards at the faculty centered on students and teaching staff affairs and enhancement of research work activities.

He told a local daily that the improvement of the students affairs would be based on an in-depth study carried out to the light of the university's plan for 89/90 for which executive steps would be taken to complete this task.

He added that similar action would be adopted regarding the amelioration of teachers' affairs, which would primarily centre on the development of scientific interaction among teachers of the faculty and their counterparts in the other GCC arts faculties.

He said that the faculty would pay special attention to teachers' research work and offer fresh

Kuwaiti graduates the chance to attend conferences and symposia held abroad, in a bid to polish their skills and train them in academic work.

He pointed out that thirdly the faculty would encourage research activities particularly in the field of science and further the implementation of a higher studies programme while working to develop the faculty administration and increase the output of staff.

He stressed that the existing level of performance at the faculty complied with the level of similar faculties in the region, adding that level of graduates was good and able to serve the needs of national development as required by the local labour market.

He said the University Council would meet to discuss the establishment of a grade-scale for admission into the different departments in September.

## No tangible results from mergers: Saleh

### Bank chairmen discuss economy

A NUMBER of chairmen of local banks deliberated on the projected curve of the Kuwaiti economy during the decade of the nineties, the effects of bank mergers and the impact of local investment funds on the operations of the stock exchange market.

He added that some would think that the merger would lead to a drop in the administrative expenses, at a time when the administrative expenses at Kuwaiti banks are considered moderate compared with that of international banks. Translated, he said this means that on such reduction or drop is possible from the merger.

### Rates

He stressed that normal interest rates would step up the investment and activate the economic situation, contrary to the high rates which result in the freezing of funds. Moderate rates would encourage capitalists to strive for securing better returns for their money and this consequently led to the flight of capital with the intention of repatriation once the situation locally becomes convenient and promising.

He recommended that the administration of the stock exchange market prevent trading in investment funds shares, before the lapse of two years since the date of their establishment so that they could prove the strength of their financial standing.

As a result, he added that the private sector, finds difficulty in launching projects that could yield total revenues not exceeding 13 per cent. Therefore a great number of projects and good

ideas had been shelved for the time being, until the interest rates go back to normal. The current situation encourages capitalists to freeze their money in deposits with steady returns and this has negatively affected real estate prices.

He cited an example in which the Central Bank had supplied the local money exchange companies with hard currencies to break the agreements reached between local banks, as this was detrimental to the interests of the clients and directed to serving the interests of the banks alone.

The Central Bank's decision to raise the interest rates was a responsible move aimed at keeping control over the volume of local liquidity and the dinar exchange rates, which could be understood as a step detrimental to the operations of certain financial institutions which deal in no less than KD100 million a year, Saleh said.

### Interests

#### Interest

#### Interest</h

# Five-year plan referred to cabinet: Rashed

## Telecom corporation a possibility

KUWAIT'S Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed was quoted as saying that Kuwait's long term plan project has been referred by the Chairman of the Higher Committee for Structural Layout, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed to the Cabinet Secretariat General Saturday.

Meanwhile, Rashed told reporters that

the forthcoming five-year-plan of the country has been finalised and has been referred to the Cabinet for endorsement, and will then be referred to the Higher Planning Council.

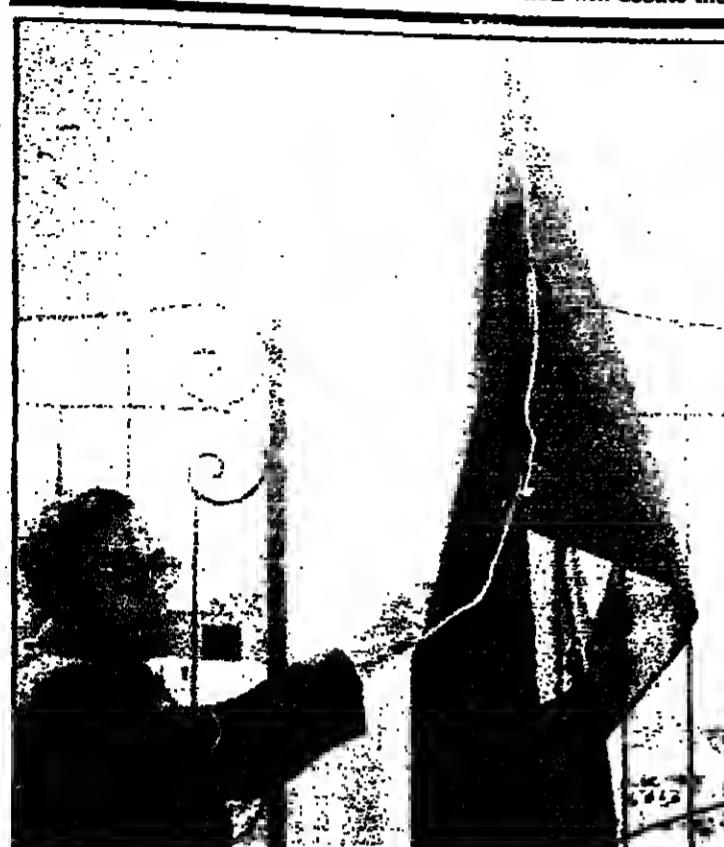
### System

He added that the Cabinet in its next session will debate the recommendations

stipulated in the minutes of the meeting of the Higher Planning Council including the recommendations suggesting the setting up of a petrochemical complex proposed by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and the preliminary proposal submitted by the Ministry of Communications suggesting the adjustment of the telecommunication system in Kuwait.

The latter proposal is based on the establishing of a public corporation which will possess all government assets invested in the telecommunication field.

Apart from the above, Rashed said the Cabinet will debate the service complexes of the country's governorates including the headquarters projects of these governorates besides other projects.



Bangladesh National Day

Bangladesh Ambassador K.M. Shehabuddin yesterday hoisted (left) his country's flag at the embassy premises in Adelyah to mark the National and Independence Day. Bangladesh School children sang the national anthem. A large number of Bangladeshis turned out for the occasion.

# Draft bill on new business regulations finalised: Mijren

## Move to protect consumers

THE assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Abdullah Al Mijren has said that the ministry has finalised the preparation of a new draft bill for the regulation of commercial agencies in the country.

He told a local daily that the ministry was going ahead with the implementation of the plan to carry out a comprehensive survey of all relevant laws currently in force, whereby to introduce the amendments and changes necessary to keep abreast of all economic and commercial developments in the country and in order to render these laws more flexible to meet current needs.

He said the ministry has submitted the draft bill on the regulation of commercial agencies to the Council of Ministers after a series of work sessions held especially for this purpose.

He pointed out that this project is in its final stages, pending issuance by the Legislative Committee at the Council of Ministers.

He pointed out that under the proposed draft bill, all existing inconveniences and loopholes in the clauses of the enforced law would be sorted out, adding that the law covered a wide number of articles.

### New articles

He said that under article one the new draft bill laid down the conditions for the operation of commercial agencies, which are mostly unchanged by the existing law.

He added that article six stated that registration of the agency in the name of the new agent will not be permitted unless the first agency was dissolved with the consent of both

parties, or cancelled by court ruling and that the company has met all its obligations to the first agent and made all reimbursements and payments due upon the dissolution of the agency.

These provisions are new and not stated by the enforced law, Mijren said. He added that under article seven the obligations undertaken by the commercial agent, which are not stated by the existing law, are considered new additions that require local agents to be fully committed and serious about obligations to ensure prosperity of the commercial business and enable the commercial sector to enjoy a state of stability that would eventually lead to further protection of consumers.

### Centres

Mijren pointed out that amendments introduced to the articles of the existing law included the extension of the period for submission of the re-registration application to three instead of two months. He further added that article five stated that the ministry's failure to consider the application within a 30-day period will be construed as a rejection of the application.

Meanwhile, the controller of the commercial shops licensing bureau at the ministry Ahmad Al Ansari said that the ministry was planning to open external centres to issue, amend and renew commercial licences to facilitate the processing of transactions and reduce pressure on the only such centre at the ministry headquarters.

He said that the existing number of com-

mercial licences for individual activities and shops was currently 50,000, pointing out that the department processed 150 to 200 applications daily, which ranged from seeking new licences, amending existing ones, renewing the validity of expired licences and changing the names of the owners.

He said that a number of Gulf owners of retail businesses had applied for permission to enhance their practice licence to include import activities, while more applications were expected to be submitted by Gulf citizens for new licences following the unification and operation for the Gulf Economic Common Market.

### Quick

He said that the opening of new external licensing offices had been instrumental in speeding up the processing of transactions, collection of data and information and enabling clients to get their applications for practice licences processed in 5 to 15 minutes. The applicants would be given the necessary documents to get the approval from the relevant government agencies and be able to receive his licence within a matter of not more than 30 minutes.

Mijren said that the Licensing Department at the ministry has been successfully able to reduce time and speed up measures due to the use of computers, use of one design-format instead of a number of forms formerly used for practical purposes and lastly the reliance on staff assigned to process all sorts of transactions without the need for the applicants to refer to a number of other staff.

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## Incorporate handicapped, says former undersecretary

THE former undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Mohammed Abdullah Al Fahed was quoted as saying that the patronage of handicapped people in Kuwait has not yet reached the targeted level.

In an interview with a local daily the official confirmed the importance of concentrating on the prequalification process of handicapped people which should be mostly represented by intensifying training courses in different fields.

He added that the threshold of the administrative development era should be represented by an analysis of the current problem scientifically, and precisely.

He stressed that the policies of sporting clubs and popular unions should be more comprehensive and specifically pointed out that coterie and bloc phenomena in the sports arena should be surmounted. In this context Fahed has called for the establishment of a higher council for sports.

Meanwhile, the official confirmed the importance of revising the labour law of the private sector from time to time in the light of labour market requirements.

He said that bousemaids offices should be subject to the supervision of the ministries of social affairs and labour and interior.

Speaking of the co-operative sector, the official said that some co-operative societies were not performing their roles properly, while some others had committed several infringements which resulted in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour to eventually dissolve the relevant board of interior.

He commented that a few directors in the co-operative sector were working sincerely, and added that the outcome of co-operative activities should be evaluated through the economic and social signs to be realised in the course of the co-operative movement.

The co-operative entity should provide progress and development through adequate recruiting of funds and human resources, the official said. He called for developing the co-operative movement in the country by preparing co-operative cadres and also called for the strengthening of relations between the co-operative sector and the state authorities to achieve co-operative movement objectives.

He added that the co-operative societies should play their social role together with its economic one, clarifying that the economic objectives could be realised through the provision of consumer goods at reasonable prices, while social objectives could be realised through the extending of several social, cultural and educational services including participation in finding out necessary solutions for some social problems.

Speaking of the delinquency phenomenon, the official has confirmed the importance of the families role towards obviating such a phenomenon.

# Kuwait determined to ensure prosperity: report

## Economic strategy highlighted

LONDON, March 26, (Kuna): A new report "Kuwait 90, Focussing on People and Prosperity" was published today by the specialised publication, Middle East Economic Digest (Meed).

In its special supplement, Meed said that Kuwait is committed to the cause of Palestine and to the needs of its fellow Muslims.

The weekly said that while West and East take heart from the end of the cold war and the efforts to promote disarmament between the world's two major power blocs, "Kuwait has sought to remind the world that the problem of Palestine is also one of human rights and self-determination that needs their attention".

It quoted the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, while addressing the UN General Assembly in September 1988, as calling on all countries "to be more attentive the Palestinian voice and to demonstrate open mindedness and tolerance".

More recently Sheikh Jaber has called for "practical tangible action" to resolve the issue of Palestinian self-determination.

In the survey sponsored by the Ministry of Information in Kuwait and the Kuwait Investment Office and a number of Kuwaiti firms, Meed said that the Amir of Kuwait had delivered a message to the UN during events marking the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people in November 1989, reminding member states "that the heroes of the Palestinian uprising were standing fast in the face of a brutal

occupation".

Meanwhile, the report made it clear that the people of Kuwait have long taken pride in their international and cosmopolitan outlook based on their historic shares and industrial investments currently estimated to total some \$55 billion.

"Now it is determined to ensure its future prosperity by using these foreign assets as a base to expand its services sector globally, a move that will not only make the best use of its oil earnings, but also provide access to training and jobs for its own indigenous population."

### Strategy

Meed went on to say that the long term strategy known as the Kuwait Economic Study has been developed by a team of Kuwaiti experts working to close co-ordination from international academic experts.

The supplement also covers the activities of Kuwait University, which is looking forward to celebrating its 25th anniversary next year.

Meed painted a rosy picture of future plans to expand the university's facilities, and it said that particular emphasis is to be given to those areas which are deemed to be necessary to the country's national development.

A budget of KD300 million has been set aside for a new campus to complement those which already exist at five different sites in Kuwait, and for the modernisation of existing facilities.

As part of Kuwait's contribution to the Muslim world, the Arab Gulf state serves as the headquarters of the Islamic Organisation for Medical Science.

## Deaf club calls for quality facilities

A NUMBER of members of the deaf and dumb club speaking through a qualified sign language translator called for more active participation to be provided to them and cited the example of their success in international sport championships.

The head of the club Zuhair Al Tatan said that the club was established in 1975 and provides members with the opportunity to practise sports and other social activities within the club's premises. There are about 270 active members and is being supervised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour as one of the charity societies.

He went on to state that due to the small area of the club, bobbies cannot practice their bobbies and sports activities within the confines of the club.

Those who desire to join the club should present certificates from the Sabah Hospital to certify that they are deaf. Tatan said and commented that the club is an ideal place for this category of individuals to practice different activities and strengthen social relations among them. Further, the club also co-operates with local, regional and international institutions to spread cultural, social and sport awareness among members.

The sports committee of the club arranges annual programmes for different sporting activities and appoints coaches and supervisors for different teams to the club to train and qualify these teams to participate in matches and competitions with similar clubs in Arab and foreign countries.

The board of the club has set up social, cultural and artistic committees to participate in national and religious festivals and visit the sick and also participate in happy occasions. The club also trains members on the art of painting and photography by organising two artistic festivals a month.

Tatan added that the club is a member of the International Deaf Union based in Denmark and is the Asian Union as well as the Arab Deaf Union based in Damascus.

He called on officials of the state to complete the modern building of the club as soon as possible to allow male and female members to join the club. He said that members of the club get a 50 per cent discount on air tickets from KAC and also enjoy free bus services of the Public Transportation Company.

Tatan said that the club's team won the football championship that was held in Australia in 1988 and the players were felicitated with gifts by HH the Amir after their return.

A coach at the club, Saudi Abdul Aziz called for permitting non-Kuwaiti members to join the sports team of the club.

## Support intifada appeal

KUWAIT, March 26, (Kuna): President of the Federation of Arab News Agencies (Fana) Baraa Hmoud Al Bargas today appealed to world media institutions to give the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories the news coverage it deserves and to expose Israel's brutalities against Arabs.

This is a moral duty dictated by the very ethics of the profession, Bargas said.

"The sacrifices being daily offered by Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are so great that they should awaken the conscience of the world and spur it to take action in advocating the cause of those youths, women and elderly.

"I appeal to you and to all world media to do whatever is possible to unmask Israel's ugly acts of repression against a whole people that revolted against its occupiers," he said.

The Fana president deplored the fact that the world media, which relayed to the world a true image of the intifada at its birth, have later wavered in such effort though the uprising is still alive with the death toll among Palestinians constantly on the rise.

"However, I still hope you would agree that the Palestinian uprising continues to merit ample news coverage in conformity with the ethics of our profession.



New Philippines embassy

The Ambassador of the Philippines and Mrs Maurya Mohammad Tamano held a cocktail party to mark the inauguration of the new Philippines Embassy in Jabiya. Picture shows Ambassador Tamano with some of the guests.

## Houti re-opens Amir Souk

THE minister of public works Abdul Rahman Al Houti has stressed that the primary concern of the Kuwaiti government since the establishment of the first masterplan for the state of Kuwait is the constant and regular development of existing urban facilities.

Speaking of the inauguration ceremony of Souk Al Amir Sunday in the presence of a number of ministers, Naser Al Roudhan, state minister for housing affairs, Mohammad Al Refai of Municipal Affairs, Issa Al Mazzed for Services Affairs, and governor of Kuwait City Sheikh Jaber Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah besides a multitude of people, Houti stressed the importance of the souk, which originally

was called the Internal Market, from the political, economic and social viewpoint, due to its strategic location close to the Seif Palace. He pointed out that a number of historical factors also made this facility occupy a special place in the hearts of people, adding that the requirements of the renovation works necessitated the removal of certain old popular markets to give way to urbanisation.

He stressed that the urban renovation of existing old features and development of these facilities to meet the requirements of modern life received full support of HH the Amir, and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Speaking of the delinquency phenomenon, the official has confirmed the importance of the families role towards obviating such a phenomenon.

The minister toured the exhibition and expressed admiration at the students' paintings and art works.

Meanwhile, Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari patronised the Abdullah Al Salem High School's art exhibition. The film, completed here recently, was designed to show means of prevention of the disease, diagnosis and how humans can receive infection from animals.

Besides the pavilions for art and photography works and popular heritage, the exhibition included rare historical photos for the late Kuwait Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem.

The minister of public works, Anwar Al Nouri, today inaugurated Farwaniya schools' art exhibition at the Farwaniya joint girls school.

The minister toured the exhibition and expressed admiration at the students' paintings and art works.

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Besides the pavilions for art and photography works and popular heritage, the exhibition included rare historical photos for the late Kuwait Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem.

## EDITORIALS

## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

NOTHING is more powerful than habit — Ovid, Roman poet

## Rebels launch attack

# Offensive may be undecisive

KABUL, (Reuters): Islamic rebels have attacked strategic Afghan cities to launch their annual spring offensive, but diplomats say the renewed fighting is unlikely to be decisive and predict the 11-year-old war could drag on for years.

The diplomats said the mujahedeen rebels were unlikely to derive any advantage from a failed coup attempt earlier this month against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

President Najibullah appeared firmly in control after the coup, led by Defense Minister Shahmawz Tanai who has now sided with the Pakistan-based rebels, they added.

"Najibullah can derive great satisfaction that most of the army stayed loyal," one Asian diplomat said.

"If the government has lost a few planes, some tanks, military hardware in the coup attempt, then the Soviets will make good on the losses," he said.

The Soviet Union sends some 25 planeloads of food and military supplies a day to prop up Najibullah.

The rebels have attacked several cities in southern Afghanistan over the past week, with the government reporting 39 mujahedeen killed in an attack near the besieged city of Khost on Saturday.

Independent confirmation of the report was not available.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Naqib said rebels were also beaten back in two attacks backed by rockets and artillery on the towns of Maidan Sahr and Qalat, both on the highway between Kabul and Kandahar, Afghanistan's second city.

Kandahar itself has also come under sporadic attack in the past few days.

## Attacks

Government troops and warplanes have repulsed repeated attacks on the eastern city of Jalalabad over the past week as well, the spokesman said.

"Of course they (the rebels) are trying to do something after the coup events to show their might at the beginning of the (Afghan) new year and the end of winter," Naqib said.

"It's something they do every season. In the past it came to nothing and so also this time."

The squabbling mujahedeen groups based in Pakistan have announced they want to hold a shura, or traditional grand council, this spring inside Afghanistan.

"They should capture and hold a town if they want to hold a shura and move their interim government to Afghanistan," a Western military analyst in Kabul said.

The rebel interim-government designed to replace Najibullah's administration is seen as lacking any real credibility until it secures a foothold inside the country.

Since the failure of their assault on Jalalabad last year, the rebels have spoken of Khost as the next best place for a temporary capital.

The mujahedeen have controlled roads to Khost for much of the war and the government can only supply the garrison town by air.

## Convoy

A convoy of government trucks and armoured vehicles left Kabul in late January to try to force its way to Khost but there have been no recent reports of its progress.

Last week, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said government troops had captured three mujahedeen tanks in the battle for Khost.

Diplomats said the mujahedeen had not used tanks before around Khost and speculated their crews may have defected to the rebels in Khost as the last seen by reporters in a cave near the city.

The new fighting will probably not break the military stalemate which has gripped landlocked Afghanistan since the last Soviet soldiers left in February last year, some diplomats said.

"It could go on for another 10 years," an Asian diplomat said. "As long as there's plenty of weapons around."

The civil war has killed more than one million people, permanently disabled half a million and created five million refugees living in Iran and Pakistan.

The Soviet Union and United States, which backs the Islamic rebels, failed to reach an agreement on a political solution to the Afghan war in talks in Helsinki last week.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

1703 — Russia's Czar Peter the Great founds city of St. Petersburg.  
1713 — Spain agrees at Utrecht to cede Gibraltar and Minorca to Britain.  
1802 — Peace of Amiens between Britain and France, which achieves complete pacification of Europe.  
1854 — France declares war on Russia.  
1865 — Independent British colony of Kaffaria is incorporated with Cape Colony in South Africa.  
1878 — Britain, fearing further Russian aggression, calls out reserve and sends Indian troops to Malta.  
1933 — Japan announces it will leave League of Nations.  
1941 — Yugoslavia's Prince Paul is deposed in coup following pact with Germany's Adolf Hitler.  
1955 — State of emergency is declared in Pakistan.  
1960 — Iraqi premier Gen. Kasaam founds Palestine army.  
1964 — United Nations peace force under Indian Gen. Gyani take over in Cyprus; Earthquake in Alaska kills more than 100 people.  
1968 — Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut who flew world's first manned space mission, is killed in crash of training plane.  
1970 — Severe earthquake strikes western Turkey, killing at least 1,087 and leaving 90,000 homeless.  
1976 — South Africa withdraws its military forces from Angola.  
1989 — Ethnic unrest shakes southern Yugoslavian province of Kosovo, killing two police officers and injuring at least eight other people.

# De Klerk rides wave of approval

## Events could turn very stormy

JOHANNESBURG, (Reuters): Dramatic political reforms and freedom for Namibia have set South Africa sailing with a fair international wind for the first time in decades, but treacherous shoals lie directly ahead.

Time is on no one's side as whites and blacks try to navigate to safety, but deep distrust between them militates against easy or quick solutions, political analysts say.

## Change

White President F.W. de Klerk has set a swift course of change, achieving in months what sceptics doubted would be done in years. But the very speed has raised black expectations and white nervousness, threatening the reformist leader with trouble from the white right if he maintains his stunning pace or the black left if he slows down to consolidate his gains.

At the same time, the African National Congress (ANC) of Nelson Mandela, newly released from a 30-year banning order, must obtain more for its hungry, long subjugated supporters — and, as the party aspires to power, demonstrate it can command and control a fractious and often violent opposition movement.

The run-up to the opening on April 11 of exploratory talks between De Klerk and the ANC sees the white South African government basking in an unaccustomed glow of world approval for releasing its grip on Namibia, a colony for 75 years, for freeing Mandela after 27 years in jail, and for lifting bans on the ANC and other proscribed black and left-wing organisations.

"There is no doubt we have come in from the cold," declared a senior government official after a host of world leaders, led by the US, Soviet, West German, Japanese and British foreign ministers beat an unprecedented path to South Africa's doorstep last week to celebrate Namibia's independence.

But if South Africa, for 40 years an international pariah because of its apartheid racial policies, is to capitalise on these gains De Klerk must begin to deliver on his promises of irreversible, fundamental change, the analysts say.

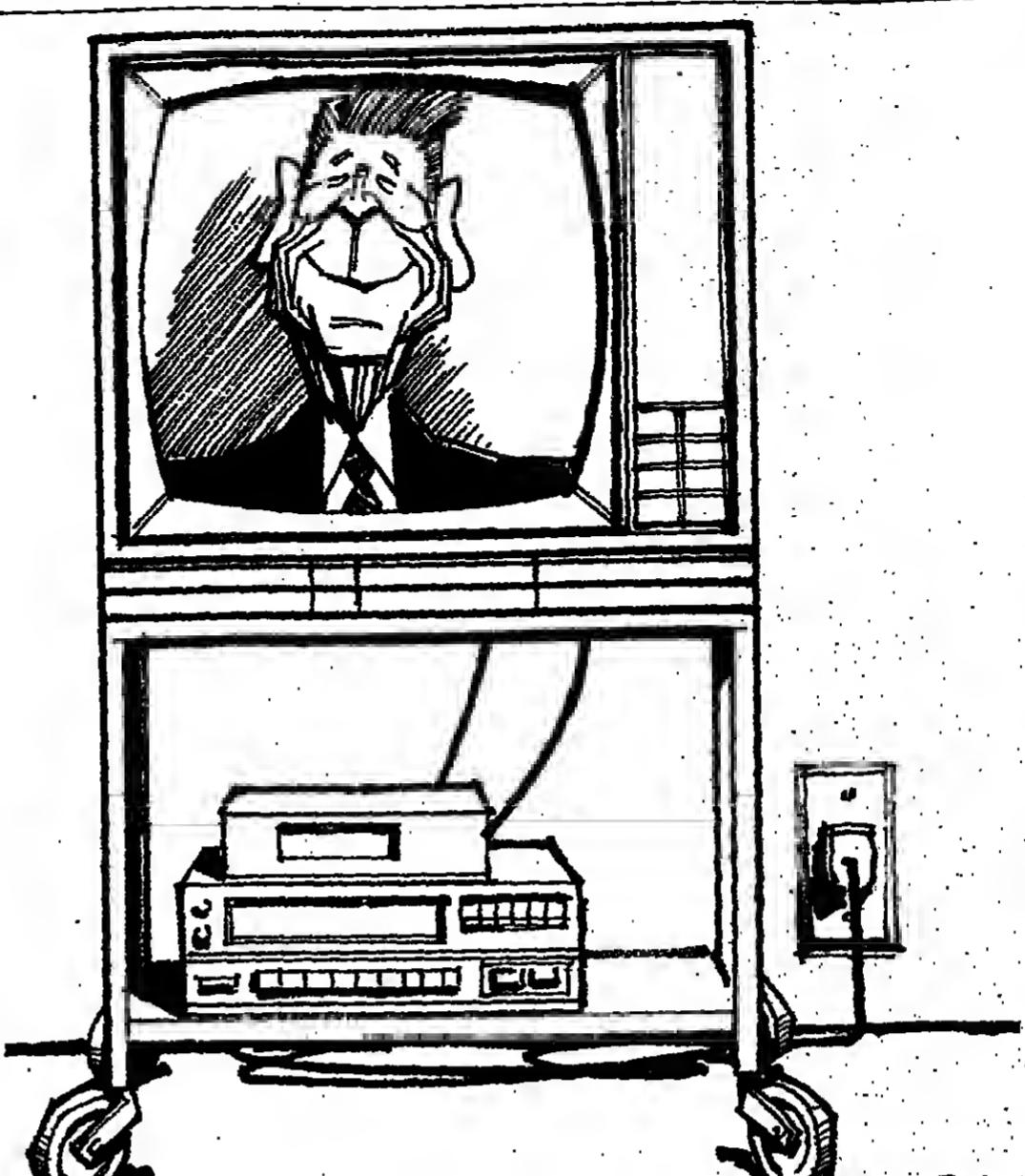
## Suspicious

Black opposition groups and many of their sympathisers at home and abroad remain deeply suspicious that the ruling National Party has in fact decided to legislate itself and the white people it represents out of power after 200 years.

Veteran black activist Dr Nthato Motlana, a close friend of Mandela's, told Reuters he remains deeply distrustful of the white government's true intentions.

"The South Africa situation is not irreversible. There can still be backsliding. The Rubicon can be crossed again and again," he said.

The point of no return would only come, he said, when blacks shared power with whites in a transitional government to prepare for a one-man, one-vote majority rule democracy, and the ANC



I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING I KNEW, AND THEY STILL KNOW NOTHING!

guerrillas had been integrated into the white army.

Government talk of "group rights" enshrined in a new constitution to protect minorities is seen by many blacks as merely a cover for continued white privilege and economic supremacy. "Group rights is completely unacceptable," Motlana declared.

From his clinic in the restive black township of Soweto, the physician and community leader predicted that on April 11 the ANC would insist that before substantive peace negotiations could begin the government must lift a three-year state of emergency.

The first signs of simmering discontent among the 9,000-strong armed forces emerged at the end of last year when Conte toured army garrisons in the provinces. The president, anxious to placate restless fellow soldiers, has since ordered a rehabilitation programme from Guinea's dilapidated barracks.

Conte's plan provides for a new democratic constitution, an elected president and Parliament and a multi-party system limited for the time being to two parties ... in Nigeria to avoid ethnic divisions.

The panel, which has only three soldiers, is due to begin drafting a constitutional blueprint next month.

Political sources said a referendum would probably be held in November to endorse the new constitution due to come into effect on January 1991.

The CMRN will then be dissolved and replaced by a National Recovery Council (CNR) made up of soldiers and civilians. The two proposed political parties will be allowed to operate only in the last year of the five-year transitional period.

"I would not be surprised if some people would like to drag their feet in the face of such momentous reforms but the sincerity of Conte cannot be questioned," Conakry University rector Dr. Sankara Sylla, a law expert who sits on the draft committee, told Reuters.

Conte has publicly warned that any soldier, including himself, wanting to go into politics would have to retire from active service.

"If the people chose me (as a leader in five years time), I shall not shirk my duties. But be sure of this: Conte the soldier will then be gone," the president said recently when asked about his intentions.

## Democracy on track despite reluctance

CONAKRY, (Reuters): Posters of Mao Tse Tung, Salvador Allende and Fidel Castro, once revered in Guinea as revolutionary heroes, perished and faded along one of Conakry's pot-holed avenues.

After 26 years of hardline socialism and six years of military rule, the West African country has embarked on a painstaking democratic process due to lead to an elected civilian government by 1996.

## Opposition

But political and diplomatic sources say the scheme, carefully crafted by military leader Lansana Conte, is facing growing opposition from fellow soldiers reluctant to hand over power to civilians.

"Conte is probably the only army officer in Guinea who wholeheartedly committed to going back to barracks in five years time," a government official told Reuters on the condition that he was not named.

"But he may well be forced to stay longer to make sure the whole process reaches its end," he said.

Conte, an unassuming career soldier, is known for his no-nonsense approach and moderate views. The army chose him in his capacity as its highest-ranking officer to lead a bloodless coup in April 1984 a few days after the death of president Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Diplomats said Conte's surprise announcement last year that Guinea would experiment with multi-party democracy for the first time since independence from France in 1958 was seen by many as irreversible.

## Luksam

A majority of the 17 members of the ruling Military Committee for National Recovery (CMRN) are said to be lukewarm about the prospect of relinquishing power although no dissenting views have so far been publicly voiced.

"No one in the CMRN dares speak out openly against civilian democracy but some hardliners, nurturing personal political ambitions, are dragging their feet in the hope that things will get bad and delay the handover," the official said.

The army, deliberately sidelined for nearly three decades under Sekou Toure's dictatorship, will not readily accept the prospect of losing hard-won privileges.

"This is perfectly human but (it) creates an atmosphere of uncertainty which compounds Conte's efforts to restore democracy and attract vital foreign investment for the country's ruined economy," one diplomat commented.

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## QUOTE ME

"I was a physical wreck; I was emotionally drained; I was mentally burned out. This time, as compared with the other crises I had endured, I could see no reason to live, no cause to fight for. Unless a person has a reason to live for other than himself, he will die ... first mentally, then emotionally, then physically. ... There was no precedent for what faced me in the 1970s. No one had ever been so high and fallen so low. No one before had ever resigned the presidency." — former US president Richard Nixon describing his state after the Watergate scandal.

"We only had to heed the words of Lenin ... when Lenin said that the Soviet Union would take Eastern Europe ... the Soviet Union would organise the hordes of Asia and then it would move on Latin America. And once having taken that, it wouldn't have to take the last bastion of capitalism, the United States. The United States would fall into their outstretched hand like overripe fruit." — Reagan on why he supported the Contras.

"Churchill won a war for Great Britain but did not win the election after it. He continued fighting, and so will I." — Imre Pozsgay on the Hungarian election.

"The special relationship is very important, and it will always be there. We have the same language, the same heritage, the same way of life, the same language, the same friends, the same enemies, the same political system." — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on US-British relationship.

"I don't want to hang around in Lebanon to see whether I will survive or not. Our society has disintegrated, there is no place anymore for young educated people ... I am 26 years old and have not yet achieved anything in my life. We stayed thinking we will get a chance to rebuild our country, but it was like loving a woman who did everything in her power to drive you away. At least when you work hard and you build a home and a business, you know you won't be destroyed by shelling. They will hit." — A Lebanese on the Lebanese crisis.

"Lithuanian was the first language I knew, went to kindergarten and could speak with my classmates. I have been very active in Lithuanian organisations in the West. I am a member of the Lithuanian World Youth Organisation. And my activities here are just a natural extension of my general involvement in the Lithuanian community." — A Lithuanian in North America on events in Lithuania.

## Letters to the editor

### Military buildup

Pakistan has not been deterred by the nuclear weapons and has supported a war in Afghanistan, therefore, political confrontations multiplying into something more serious is a possibility.

If nuclear weapons exist in the reserves of any country's arsenal, then they certainly retain a large role in overall military balances. Due to lack of mutual trust between the adversaries and absence of a strong political dialogue, the actual usage is considered possible from any side, in case of an impending defeat like, Pakistani forces taking over Srinagar or Indian forces reaching the outskirts of Lahore.

The only plausible and sensible explanation for India and Pakistan's nuclear programme is to deter each other and avoid a scenario whereby one nation has a preeminent advantage over the other; this is against the current prevailing balance of offensive or defensive capabilities.

Anyway, most of the experts on disarmament and denuclearisation believe that the subcontinent would be safer with Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) as a prevalent strategy than war-fighting strategies. The first-strike advantage for any side is very dangerous. This creates an illusion for either side to launch and pursue the capability of waging and winning a full scale conventional and protracted nuclear war.

The only means available to the two nations is to find a way through which Mutual Assured Survival becomes the policy. Unfortunately, it is not technically possible without the two nations acquiring similar capabilities.

To escape from the mutual hostage conditions of nuclear deterrence, the two nations could make, once they start dealing on equal basis, strategic reviews of their nuclear forces and work their policies on basis of "defend" rather than "avenge."

Princeton physicist, Frank von Hippel, believes that, relatively speaking, the world would be safer with Mutual Assured Destruction as the prevailing strategy than war-fighting strategies. When we see Agbini being tested with 3,000 km range, then the general impression carried is that India is switching on to the kind of policy generally referred as war-fighting strategy. This is the policy of waging a war by targeting strategic cities, and Pakistan believes that these war-fighting contingencies and weapon-carrying capabilities make war more likely by making it more thinkable.

The instability caused due to this deployment can only be countered if the other side is also able to accomplish a matching ability. India should realize that the most likely outcome of deploying a warhead-carrying system and the new arms race will increase conventional defeat is very much possible.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

# Britain's mega-hero of rock



Phil is a favourite of Princess Diana and has been involved with the Prince's Trust charity

**Phil is no handsome hunk but he can't help being a hit**

HE is the most unlikely looking mega-hero of music ... short, with receding hair, bitten nails and a face that could belong to your favourite uncle.

And Phil Collins would not even be in the designer gear if guitarist and near-neighbour Eric Clapton hadn't grabbed him and told him: "You look awful. We're going shopping."

But, at 39, Collins beat all the youngsters to pocket the award for top male singer in Britain — just as he was setting off on a mammoth nine-month solo world tour.

He has weathered more than a decade of the changing trends in music. So popular is he now that, before he had finished packing his bags for the opening round of concerts in Japan in February, all 10 dates/huge London venues in April and May were sold out.

Yet this most talented singer-drummer-pianist admitted he was as nervous as a new boy before the start of the superb opening show in Osaka that had the usually restrained Japanese leaping to their feet and cheering wildly.

If Collins does not look the superstar, he does not live it either.

His Surrey country home is large, warm and comfortable but it's stocky rather than pop-star luxury. There is a log fire but no jacuzzi.

Unlike other rockers who tour with a huge retinue, Collins travels with just one personal assistant.

He says: "I have a lovely house but we don't drink champagne every night. We have a housekeeper who cleans the house three hours a day and a gardener. We have no nanny for our baby, Lily."

"My wife Jill cooks and I do the washing up. I have my duties. I always put Lily to bed. We live on a budget. Jill draws an amount of money out each week and whatever is left over she puts in a kitty for Christmas presents."

"My plumber calls, I answer the door to him. I don't have a secretary. I answer all my letters myself. My car is a three-year-old BMW."

**Cautious**

And if Jill wants a night off cooking, it is more likely that Phil will pop out to a local takeaway than that they will be spotted in an expensive trendy restaurant.

Phil says: "I am very cautious with money because that is the way I grew up. We never had that much money. I still think the bubble's going to burst. Something could happen and I've got a family to take care of."

His big extravagance is his designer wetsuit by Gianni Versace. He says: "Eric took me to Versace in Milan and I bought a few things on his advice. When I got home, Jill said she loved them and I've been wearing his ever since."

Collins, who grew up in a three-bedroom semi-detached home in Hornsey with his building-society manager father and mother who ran a London drama school, does not consider it an extravagance to take his wife and baby daughter with him on his tour.

He has even had tiny ear muffs made specially to protect Lily's ears when she appears at concerts.

For Phil blamed the pressure of work in the early days of the pop group Genesis as a contributing factor in the break-up of his marriage to first wife Andrea — a mistake he is not about to repeat.

He says: "Dialogue between me and my first wife is still going on about why my marriage broke up. We can't agree. But I was not there when I should have been."

In the late Seventies, besides Genesis, he was also working with Brand X. The situation came to a head, he says, when he spent nine months on tour with Genesis and returned to find his wife a stranger.

"I never thought it would come to that," he says. "We were so much part of each other's life. We met at school when I was 13, read storybook stuff. I think the split happened because I was working such a lot."

**Contact**

His biggest concern when they divorced in 1980 was that his daughter Joley, now 18, and son Simon, 14, would not have a father there when they needed him. They now live in Canada.

Collins is in regular telephone contact with them and they spend six



The Great Train Robbers from the film Buster



Phil with the other members of Genesis

weeks of their summer holiday with him every year. He and his second wife, who was an American teacher, even waited until they were in their teens to start their family.

"We wanted to wait until they were old enough to understand it," says Phil. "That was one of the first things we thought of, that maybe — with them not living with me — they might think, 'Dad's suddenly got other kids of his own' and that I was deserving them."

He talked it over with them first. Both are delighted with their new half-sister. And Lily has even become a bond between Collins' first and second wives.

Collins says: "They haven't always been friends but now they get along well. My ex-wife loves Lily and even wants to be her auntie. I think it's great she wants to be involved."

It was shortly after his marriage broke up that Collins met Eric Clapton, then happily married to Patti Boyd. He says: "Eric was great to me then. I looked at him and Patti and saw what I thought was the perfect marriage."

"They were good company and encouraged me to think there might be happiness out there somewhere for me, too."

Ironically, Eric's marriage then collapsed and was Phil's turn to be agony aunt. But unlike Eric who returned for a time to drink to forget Patti, Collins had turned only to music.

The songs on his first solo album, *Face Value*, were the therapy of a

One of Collins' precautions against letting work get in the way of marriage a second time is organising his life so he can work as much as possible at home.

He has turned a bedroom of his home into an office with recording equipment where he writes and records. To prepare for his current tour, he hired a hall and shut himself away to rehearse all day. But the hall was only a five-minute drive away.

Collins says: "All I ever wanted to do was to be a drummer who was respected by other musicians. I already knew I wanted to be a drummer by the age of five. My uncles made me a drum kit then."

"When I was 12, I made the ultimate sacrifice and sold my train set to buy a proper one. Later I discovered it wasn't my train set at all but my brother's."

Phil went from Chiswick County Grammer to the Italia Coots state school and made his acting debut at 14 as the Artful Dodger in *Oliver*. He says: "When I was 14, I had it all mapped out. I'd be in a group until my late twenties, then I'd be in a swing band, and I'd finish my playing days in an orchestra pit in the West End."

**Acclaim**

When I was in *Oliver*, I used to look down into the pit and think, 'That's where I'll end up.'

He returned to acting to make the film *Buster* with Julie Walters, playing one of the Great Train Robbers. His performance won critical acclaim.

Collins himself was not impressed. He says: "It was just loveable villainy stuff. I don't feel I have arrived as an actor. I have to play something different to prove I can — a deadly serious role or an out-and-out comic."

Another movie is in the pipeline, although Phil regards it as more of a joke than the ultimate test of his dramatic talents.

He was always being compared, he said, with Bob Hoskins. Then someone compared him with Danny DeVito. He thought it might be an interesting combination. "He was kidding when he said they should play *The Three Bears* together. But Hollywood took it seriously."

Now it looks likely that 20th Century Fox will put up a multi-million dollar stake to finance a modern version of the fairy story. Kim Basinger has been cast to play Goldilocks.

"At the moment she'll be disappointed," says Phil. "The script doesn't call for a young Goldilocks. It will be about ageing and how to deal with parents."

"It isn't a good experience, I'll do one more movie to find out."

Collins is reckoned to be worth £25 million although he claims to be too bad a businessman himself to know.

He has been able to afford to replace the sacrificed train set but rarely has time to play with it since Lily, whom he describes as "absolutely perfect," arrived a year ago.

Phil keeps ducks, works out every second day in his home gym, goes to watch football once in a while and occasionally to the local pub "but only for half an hour."

**Image**

He would love, he says, to live down his Mr Nice Guy image.

"I have been doomed with this Mr Nice Guy image," he says. "I am much more extreme than people tend to think. I can sit all night and not say much. I become obsessed with things. And I have a very short fuse these days."

The trouble with this is that, if you ask anyone who has worked with him what he is *really* like, they all say he is one of the nicest people in the music business.

He is a shy star who admits he is "more comfortable with 100,000 people wanting me to sing than I would be in a room with two girls that I did not know."

One thing that gets him down is the fans who knock on the door of his home, asking for autographs. "I need some space at weekends because my life during the week is pretty hectic," he says.

So does he tell them where to go? "I'm very rarely rude because they've summoned me to sing and say I do it," he says.

And he wonders why he is stuck with the Mr Nice Guy tag!

## JUNIOR TIMES

### Happy birthday



Tanya Tharakan turns 10 today March 27



Anil Anwar turned 3 on February 13



Farzana Patel turns 3 today March 27



Ambrish Sadhu turned 6 on March 26



Ranjini Sen turned 7 on March 23



Karthik Mittu turned 9 on March 23



Heba Dalvi turned 1 on March 17



Maryam Zafar turns 8 on March 28

Suresh Wadhwan turns 4 on March 28

Shubhangi Ramgopal turns 9 on March 28

Zainab Nasreen turns 5 on March 18

## Magic for beginners

### Balancing a glass on a playing card

#### By Marco, the magician

BALANCING an ordinary drinking glass full of Vimto on the top edge of a playing card appears to be very difficult. Nevertheless, it can be learnt with a little practice, provided you know the trick that goes with it.

Following is the procedure:

take an ordinary playing card and show it to your audience. The card will balance the glass of vimto, so pass round the glass, too. Having dispelled fears that you're playing unfair, now set to work.

Hold the card upright, thumb at one edge (side), fingers at the other, with the exception of the fore-finger which stays behind the card.

Using the right hand to set the glass on the edge of the card, raise the hidden fore-finger so that it serves as a support. The glass should be placed on the card edge in such a manner so that its centre is slightly to the rear of the card, making it all the easier.

After a few trials, the balancing can be done in a convincing style but, mind you, it is most effective to make it look like a delicate, difficult job.

The vanishing match sticks. The magician on stage

shows a match box to his audience, opens the box, to show it full of match sticks. He removes a matchstick from it and strikes, then utters his magic charms "BIM-SALEE-SAM" and — presto! the match box is empty.

This may sound incredible, or just as incredible as it looks — if you have seen a professional magician do it on the stage. The magic, not a sleight of hand, is based on a very simple trick. Here it is:

The match box looks ordinary but it is not so, it has to be especially prepared for the trick. Prepare the match box by sticking a label (the same type of the front) on the back side of the match box. Now take the drawing box out and glue a set of match sticks (except one — the one used for lighting) at the back of the match box drawers so as to cover its entire surface (or breadth). Empty the box, slide the drawer back in its place and you are ready for the trick.

After a few trials, the balancing can be done in a convincing style but, mind you, it is most effective to make it look like a delicate, difficult job.

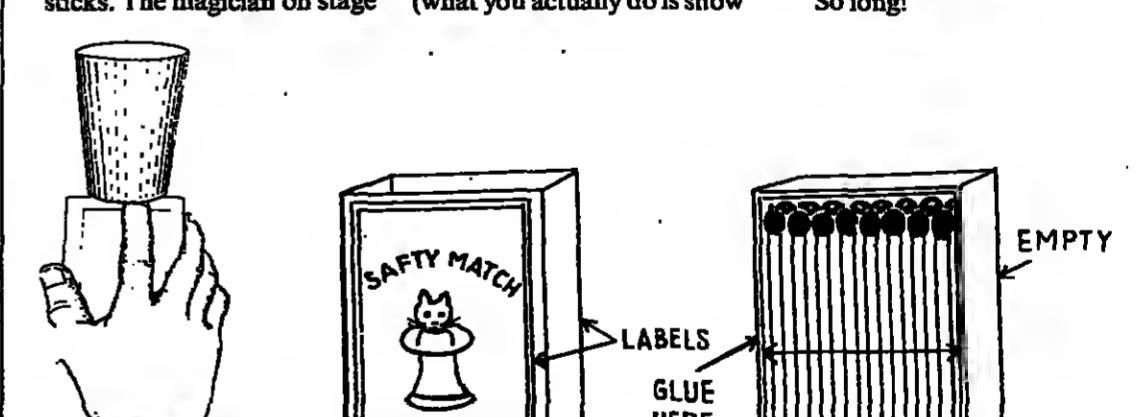
The vanishing match sticks. The magician on stage



shows the bottom side of the drawer which has the set of sticks glued to it — but to the audience it looks like a full match box. Now remove the sticks, close the box, and light the stick.

Waive your hand with the match box, and pronounce the magic words "BIM-SALEE-SAM". Open the match box (the drawer in the correct side now) and show it to your audience, and here, the box just full has turned empty with your magic spell!!

So long!

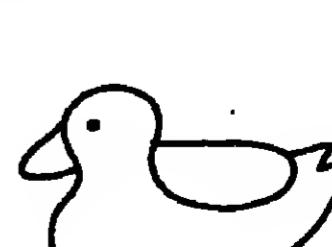
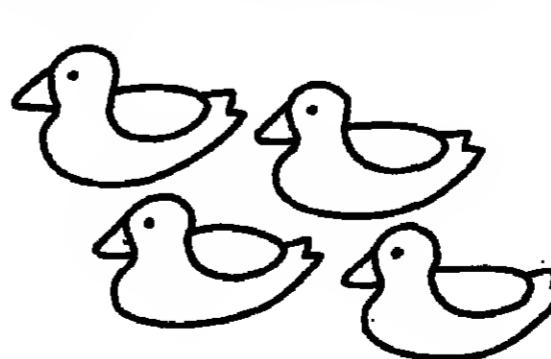


MATCH BOX COVER

BACK SIDE OF THE DRAWER

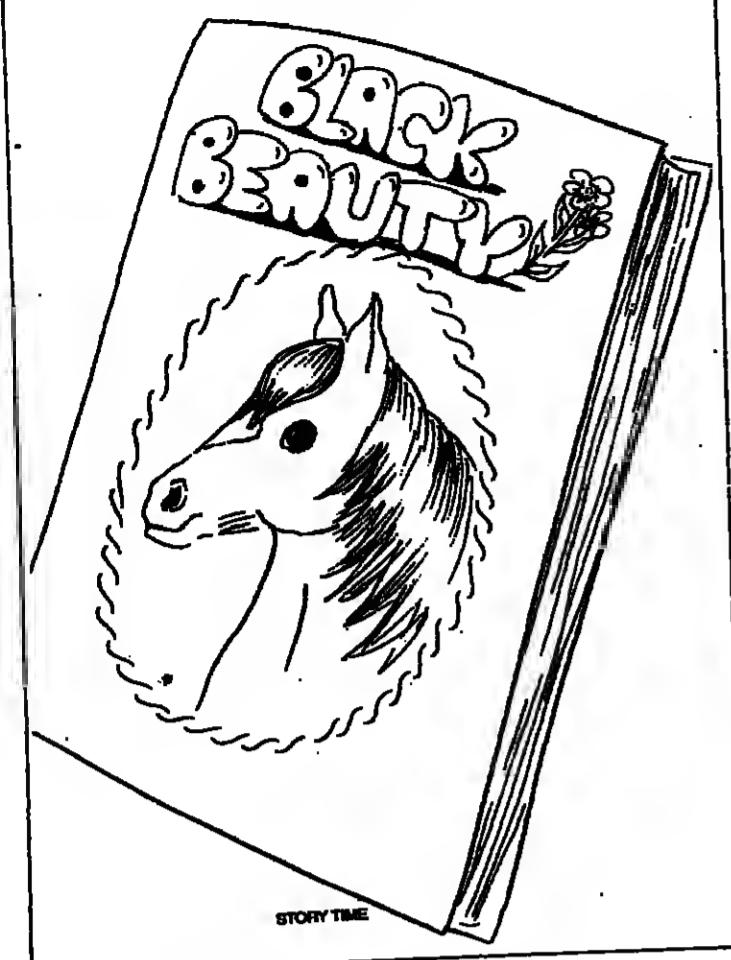
## Colour in the most

Colour in the group with the most ducks



The songs on his first solo album, *Face Value*, were the therapy of a

## Colour timing



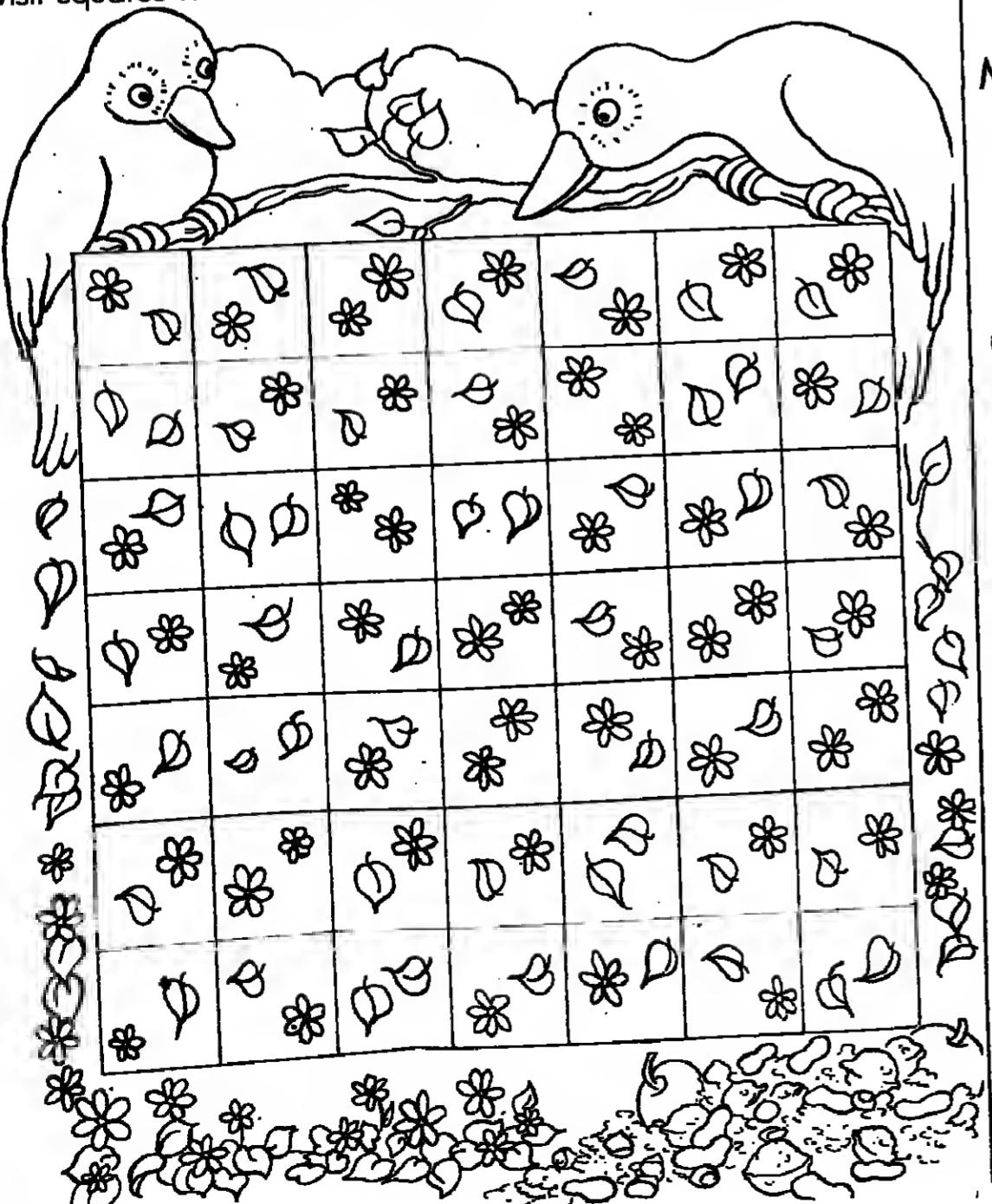
## Join the dots



Ready to serve.

## Feeding time

Help the birds find their way to the food pile. Start in the top left-hand square, and move towards the bottom right-hand square. You can move across, up and down, but not diagonally. You can only visit squares which have one flower and one leaf in them.



## Dear Junior readers,

Ramadan Karim. This month is a Holy month in which all Muslims around the world fast from dawn to dusk. It is a month of special prayers and each deed you do, you will be awarded ten times more than that during all other months.

If you do not fast, think carefully. Fasting is a good way of cleansing your body from all the fatty foods you eat all year round. It is very healthy, even though it can be uncomfortable in the heat.

Manal

## To ride a horse

To ride on a horse, that would be great to gallop around all day to race over fields and jump over hedges in an ever so posh looking way.

My name is Adham and as you can see I'm no taller now, than my own mothers knee I wish I could climb upon that big horse, but being just two, I'm too little of course.

You wait till I'm four, then I'll be bigger and mum won't have to help me I'd be free as a bird, on that horse of mine and I'd ride forever, just watch ME.

J. Hodgson.

## Crack the code

These Mortons talk like typewriters! Using the code below can you work out what they are saying?

A = .	K = ,	U = :
B = ,	L = %	W = =
C = /	M = +	X = ?
D = @	N = =	Y = !
E = E	O = ^	Z = -
F = &	P = =	
G = \$	Q = =	
H = \$	R = =	
I = (	S = =	
J = )	T = %	

WHY DID THE MORTON NEED A HANDBKERCHIEF?

BECAUSE  
HE HAD  
A CODE  
IN THE  
DOSE.

## Amazing facts

William III, Queen Anne, George I, George II, and George IV all died on Saturdays.

The average summer temperature of the Red Sea is 35 C.

In 1785 Louis XVI issued a decree that all handkerchiefs must be square.

A dragonfly has been known to eat forty house-flies in less than two hours.

Many perfumes are compounded of a substance produced in the glands of the civet, a cat-like animal found in Ethiopia.

## Match the pictures to the words.



sandpit

marbles

bicycle

climbing frame

rocking horse

seesaw



Read the words.

Draw the pictures.

spade

skipping rope

bucket

Wordsearch  
ON THE WING

"Dost thou not perceive that all creatures both in Heaven and earth prize God, and the birds also, extending their wings?"  
The Koran, XXV, c. 625

ACRE	GRAINS	MEXICO	QUAIL	TWIGS
BIRD	GROUSE	MIGRATE	ROBIN	VULTURE
BUGS	HATCH	MOLT	SEASONS	WARBLER
CANADA	HUNTED	NEST	SEEDS	WATER
CAPISTRANO	INSECTS	ORIOLE	SOAR	WILD
CATBIRD	JUNGLE	OWL	SWAMPS	WINTER
CHIRP	MALLARD	POND	TREES	WOODS
CORN				
DUSK				
FEATHERS				
FEED				
FLEDGLING				
FLICKER				
FLIGHT				
FOREST				
FORMATION				
GAME				



## Which way home



## Draw a bird in the nest



## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Is your birthday to come soon?  
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?  
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!  
Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.

The details we need are:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(confidential)

Send to:

**ARAB TIMES**

Junior Times  
P.O. Box 2270  
13023, Safat,  
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

Your  
favourite  
most  
recent  
picture  
(4x6)

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## Slight dip in Sabic profits

NICOSIA, March 26. (Reuters): The Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic) reported a 3.37 billion riyals (\$900 million) net profit in 1989, slightly down on the previous year.

Sabic made a record profit of 3.68 billion riyals (\$980 million) in 1988, a 216 per cent rise on 1987's net income.

Saudi Industry and Electricity Minister Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Zamil said Sabic marketed a total of 9.379 million tonnes of goods ranging from fertilisers to steel in 1989, eight per cent up on the previous year.

The official Saudi Press Agency today quoted Zamil as saying that Sabic, Saudi Arabia's giant industrial conglomerate, produced 9,458 million tonnes of steel, petrochemicals, plastics and fertiliser in 1989, a 2.4 per cent rise on 1988.

Zamil, who is managing director of Sabic, said revenue was 13,626 billion riyals (\$3.63 billion) in 1989, compared to 9,322 billion riyals (\$2.49 billion) in 1988.

He said Sabic's board of directors approved a 500 million riyal dividend payout to shareholders, unchanged from last year.

Sabic last week signed an agreement with Mitsubishi Engineering and Shipbuilding Company of Japan to construct a new plant at the Arabian Petrochemical Company (Petrokemya), a wholly-owned affiliate in the industrial city of Jubail.

Ibrahim Bin Abdullah Bin Salameh, deputy managing director of Sabic, told SPA yesterday the new plant would produce 500,000 tonnes a year of ethylene, 300,000 tonnes of propylene, 100,000 tonnes of butadiene and 70,000 tonnes of benzene.

Salameh said the project would be completed within 33 months and was expected to come on stream in 1993.

He did not give the cost of the contract but said it would cover all aspects of the project including engineering, detailed design, construction and purchasing services.

## Bank shares oversubscribed

WARSAW, March 26. (Reuters): A small bank called Big, the first Polish state-run financial institution to be privatised, announced today its initial public offer of shares was just over 1-1/2 times oversubscribed.

Big S.A. — Bank Inicjatyw Gospodarczych — said in a statement carried by the official Pap News Agency that private investors placed orders for 22,857 shares when only 15,000 were on offer.

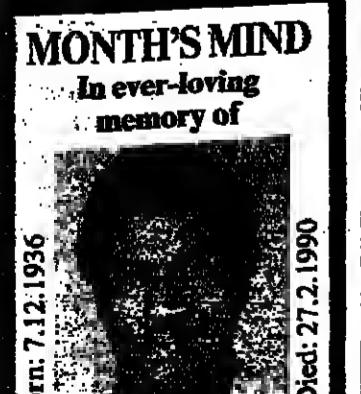
After shares are sold to subscribers the bank's nominal capital will grow to 2.5 billion zloties (263,000) from one billion zloties (\$105,000). The bank plans to issue another 15,000 shares soon.

Big, which was 99 per cent owned by state companies before it went public, became the trailblazer in an ambitious privatisation programme aimed at injecting competition into Poland's economy.

It said foreign investors applied for 9,012 shares but, under regulations imposed by the National Bank, they would be allowed to buy only up to 20 per cent of the issue of 3,000 shares.

The nominal value of a share is 100,000 zloties (\$10.50) and the bank will sell them for 600,000 zloties (\$63).

As Poland currently has no stock exchange, Big said it would provide facilities for investors to trade the shares freely.



**MONTH'S MIND**  
In ever-loving  
memory of  
**MINGUEL JOSE  
D'SILVA**  
Requiem mass offered for  
Michael (tailor) at Holy  
Family Church, Kuwait at  
5 pm on 27.3.90.  
Offered by wife Cecilia, and  
children Janis, Georgina,  
Anita and Severina.  
Born: 7.12.1936  
Died: 27.2.1990

# Gold plunges and yen weakens

LONDON, March 26. (Reuters): The price of gold plunged more than \$20 an ounce today in a European market made jittery by rumours that a Middle Eastern country had sold a large amount of bullion to buy British pounds, traders said.

They said the rumour hit the gold market early and touched off selling which carried on throughout Europe's trading day.

"It looks like they (the Middle East country) sold gold and then picked up the sterling they wanted in the foreign exchange market," said one currency trader in London.

Analyst Vahid Fathi at traders Prentiss Ball and Turben Inc in New York

said the rumoured Middle Eastern seller was Saudi Arabia and that the amounts speculated to have been sold were "anywhere from two million ounces and higher." But he added that none of the rumours could be substantiated.

Shares in gold mining companies were stock market losers in Johannesburg, London and New York.

On foreign exchange markets the Japanese yen, weakened this year by relatively low domestic interest rates and concern about inflationary pressures, fell further against the dollar.

A surge in Japanese shares prices today filtered through to most other major bourses. London's FTSE index

of 100 leading shares closed 14.3 points up at 2,298.2, but off the day's high of 2,306.9.

French and West German shares were also higher by the close and on Wall Street by midday the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 16.44 points up at 2,720.72.

In Tokyo, the 225-share Nikkei average had soared 1,468.33 points or 4.83 per cent to 31,840.49 in its second largest one-day point gain on record.

It was a welcome contrast to the market's dramatic 6.88 per cent tumble last week alone and a 23.31 per cent fall between its all-time peak last 29 and last Thursday when it hit a 1989-90 low.

But share analysts cautioned that the relief could be short-lived as selling pressure from institutional and individual investors hit with crippling losses in the recent slump could easily drag share prices down for a month or two.

After the euphoria over the Tokyo market, gold bullion shot sharply into focus.

It opened in London virtually unchanged from Friday's close of \$389.25 an ounce but within minutes was sinking — to 379.25 by the 1030 GMT fixing and 370.25 at the afternoon setting. It finally closed at \$367.75, down \$21.50 on the day and its lowest finish in London since last

October 24.

Dealers said that in addition to the Middle East seller rumour, other factors causing the slump in gold were the strong dollar — gold is denominated in the US currency — and the perception that investors were buying dollars as a safe haven instead of gold, the traditional resort in times of uncertainty.

In the past, uncertainty such as that created by events in Lithuania might have prompted a rush into gold. "This is another example of gold losing its attractiveness as a safe haven," one analyst in London said.

On the technical side, Stephen Raphael of London traders Brian Mar-

ber and Co said: "The target is now \$375 to 355 ... at one point gold will rally, but it is unlikely to go above 402.10, and in the end it will go down and test 355."

Gold touched \$424 an ounce in early February and was last down as low as 355 last September — at the time the lowest since July 1986.

The dollar closed in London at 1.7159 West German marks and 156.30 yen after 1.7095 and 153.20 on Friday. But the British pound firmed to 1.6135 from \$1.6045, helped by the large reported sterling order from the Middle East, which traders put at around £500 million.

KPC to finance new petrochemical complex

## Kuwait likely to pull out of more Arab organisations

ABUDHABI, March 26. (Agencies): Kuwait is considering pulling out of other Arab organisations which are failing due to lack of financial support from members. A Kuwaiti minister was quoted today as saying.

"Kuwait is spearheading a drive to revise the performance of joint Arab organisations which have problems and fail to realise their objectives," Finance Minister Jassim Mohammed Al-Khorafi told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Ittihad.

Kuwait said last week it would quit the 13-nation Arab Economic Unity Council, citing financial problems within the Amman-based group and saying that it should be disbanded.

"Kuwait has made a decision to stop subscribing to any Arab institution if 60 per cent of the members fail to pay their dues," he was quoted as saying.

He also complained about the poor performance of the body, the failure of most of the member states to meet their financial

commitments, and overman-

ning. In his statements to Al Ittihad, the minister said:

"Kuwait is spearheading a campaign to evaluate performance of the joint Arab organisations facing problems and obstacles and not achieving objectives."

The campaign is aimed at keeping pace with the shortage in financial resources of Gulf oil countries which failed to pay their financial commitments to these organisations," he added.

For its part, he said Kuwait has decided to stop payment of its contributions of any Arab organisation when 60 per cent of the participating states failed to pay their own contributions.

Various League bodies have headquarters spread through Arab capitals and present Arab nationals with higher-paying jobs, all financed by the League

member states in ratios that saw the oil-rich countries like Kuwait bearing a bigger share than others.

Dwindling revenues have stopped most contributions. One hundred employees of five defunct organisations have gone unpaid for months and are now owed accumulated fees of \$6 million.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) will finance from its own resources a \$2 billion petrochemical complex approved by the Gulf state's planners on Saturday, a KPC official said.

"We will not use foreign finance, but internal means. The corporation will finance the whole project," the official told Reuters today.

The project is expected to be open to foreign bidders but KPC has not yet set a date for a tender.

## EEC warns Greece

Drastic measures needed to mend economy

ATHENS, March 26. (Reuters): The European Economic Community has told Greece to take drastic and immediate measures to mend its ailing economy or risk losing international credibility.

The message, the most severe warning so far by Greece's EEC partners, was contained in a letter from EEC Commission president Jacques Delors to Prime Minister Xenophon Zolotas on March 5.

It was made public today by conservative party leader Constantine Mitsotakis, who is campaigning in national elections set for April 8, the third in 10 months.

Delors said Greece's economic problems had worsened significantly since 1988 and "the situation in your country is a serious cause of concern for all."

The most important economic indicators available as well as information gathered by the recent commission delegation in Athens indeed show the situation has become very worrying."

Delors said the EEC had made every effort to help integrate Greece into the community since it joined in 1981, citing a decision to grant Athens a 1.5 billion ECU (\$1.7 billion) loan in 1985 during a previous economic crisis.

"The commission would find itself in a difficult position to have participated in and linked its credibility to a loan, the terms of which were not met by the borrower," he said.

"This makes immediate and drastic measures imperative, and forming and imposing a multi-year plan to improve the economy as fast as possible."

If Athens failed to take such steps, he said, its huge

debts were "in danger of hurting the credibility of Greece."

Greece's total public debt is estimated at \$54 billion or more than its yearly gross domestic product.

Delors also said significant economic differences between Athens and its EEC partners threatened to undermine Greece's future as the EEC moved towards a single integrated market in 1992 and economic and monetary union.

He noted that Greece's 15 per cent inflation rate was three times the EEC average, wages were rising at 20 per cent a year and public borrowing had increased "massively" in two years.

Greece's economic woes, rooted in huge and growing public debts, have been aggravated by the political crisis which has paralyzed the country over the past year.

Since the defeat of the Socialist Party in June after eight years in power, Greece has been ruled by two weak coalition governments. Major problems have been pushed aside while the main political parties jockeyed for position.

Mitsotakis' New Democracy Party emerged as the largest group in elections in June and November but failed both times to win an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament.

The April election looks like a re-run with the socialists, conservatives and communists again going into post-election bargaining to try to find a workable coalition — which would mean further delays in dealing with Greece's economic woes.



Europe has a number of features which make it an outstanding opportunity for investors — the completion of a European Single Market in 1992 leading to increased merger and acquisition activity, political and economic reform in Eastern Europe, and an attractive valuation of financial assets. The large size of the European equity warrant markets and the attractive premium rating of equity warrants could make this a most exciting form of investment.

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design, improved luxury features, and an all new interior, (with air-bag restraint systems for both driver and passenger) was recently voted the 1990 Car of the Year by the influential American magazine 'Motor Trend'.

The Town Car was exclusively previewed to the GCC by Arabian Motors Group (AMG) at the Kuwait Motor Show last November. It leads the line-up of the new Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models for 1990 which, for the first time, feature standard driver side air-bags on most of the cars available in Kuwait: Ford Crown Victoria, Mustang and Taurus, Mercury Grand Marquis and Sable as well as the Lincoln Town Car, Continental and Mark VII.

The sleek Town Car, with new aerodynamic

# Land speculation threatens S. Korean financial reform

SEOUL, March 26. (Reuters): Speculation in the red-hot real estate market will force South Korea to scrap a major part of its ambitious financial reform plan, economists and bankers say.

Anxious to crack down on tax evasion and other shady activities, Seoul has said it will force everyone to conduct financial transactions under their real names from 1991.

But the threat of the real-name reform has helped to spark massive capital flight from the stock market into real estate, fueling a land price

boom that many people believe will deter the government from carrying out the reform.

"I don't think the government will be able to implement the real-name system unless it gets runaway land prices under control," said Kim Tae-Won, head of Coyo Research Institute.

Currently, financial market speculators open many accounts in banks and securities houses under false names or the names of relatives and friends to hide wealth.

The real-name reform would aim to

end this practice, and to prevent bank branches from serving as go-betweens for private moneylenders who carry out their own multi-billion-dollar loan business in the clandestine "Kerb market."

Brokers and analysts report capital flight of some five trillion won (\$7 billion) from the Seoul Stock Exchange since the government began preparing to implement the real-name reform a year ago.

They say the money has been diverted into the lucrative real estate market. The average land price in

South Korea jumped 32 per cent in 1989, the construction ministry said. Prices for houses have doubled in many areas of Seoul in the past year.

Kim Tae-Dong, an economics professor at Sungkyunkwan University, said capital gains through rises in real estate value were an estimated 85 trillion won (\$12 billion) in 1989, over 70 per cent of South Korea's gross national product.

Businessmen criticise the real-name reform on the grounds that an outflow of capital from the financial markets would damage the economy, and the

land price boom is blamed for much of South Korea's economic difficulties.

"Speculative activities in real estate are blamed for inflation, declining investment in manufacturing industries and a slump in the stock exchange," Kim Tae-Won said.

Some factory owners privately say they now build factories not to expand manufacturing operations but to take easy profits through speculation in land.

Facing an economic slowdown, with GNP growth dropping to 6.5 per cent last year from 12.2 per cent in

1988, policy makers are apparently bowing to pressure from businessmen.

Recent reports in the local news media, apparently leaked by top economic officials, have indicated that the reform will be scrapped or postponed indefinitely.

"Even before the new system is implemented, it is causing lots of problems. Promised policies should be amended if situations change drastically," newly appointed Economic Planning Minister Lee Seung-Yun told reporters recently.

Finance Minister Chung Yung-Euy

said: "The new system must be beneficial to the economy. If it isn't, the issue of whether or not it should be carried out must be reconsidered."

In another indication of a policy change, President Roh Tae-Woo this month sacked reform-minded economic ministers in a cabinet reshuffle and replaced them with Lee Chung and Trade Minister Park Pi-Son.

"We welcome the apparent policy change because the real-name system should have further distorted the already difficult economic environment," an American banker said.

## Economic miracle founders

ABIDJAN, March 26. (Reuters): When workers in the Ivory Coast look at their pay slips this month they will discover what the country's farmers already know — black Africa's economic miracle is over.

The West African country that dined on champagne and French oysters during the commodity boom years of the 1970s is now scrambling to find enough money to pay its civil servants.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and foreign donors have made salary cuts and drastic deflation a condition for lending more money to snap the rot.

The cuts have sparked the biggest protests of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny's 30-year rule and unprecedented demands for multiparty democracy.

Fired by the demise of Eastern Europe's autocrats, striking students dared for the first time to call on Houphouet-Boigny to quit. He put his French-trained troops on the streets to quell unrest and closed schools and the university.

The protesters blamed mismanagement and corruption for much of the economic mess and said the rich should compensate for the pay cuts.

Clearly rattled by the depth of opposition and possibility of strikes, the government quietly cobbled together a package of relief measures such as lower rents and cheaper basic foods which it said would compensate for the pay cuts.

Few Ivoirians believe such government assurances, and grassroots opposition from within the government-controlled trade unions is growing, according to union sources.

"The government is improvising," said a senior foreign adviser who asked not to be identified. "They announce one set of measures and then a set of counter-measures as soon as there is any opposition. The result is the sums do not add up and we do not know where we stand."

"The country is headed for economic disaster," he said. "It will take massive foreign assistance to pull them out of it and even then that aid will have to be better managed than in the past to be effective."

Houphouet-Boigny, Africa's longest serving leader, blames the crisis on a 55 per cent drop in cocoa prices and a 48 per cent fall in coffee prices between 1986 and 1989. Ivory Coast is the world's biggest cocoa and fourth biggest coffee producer.

During the boom years the state had lots of cash, some of which was used to create a road network and basic infrastructure which is still the envy of many dirt-poor sub-Saharan states.

Ivoirians took white collar jobs in air-conditioned offices and some three million immigrants from nearby countries did the heavy, dirt work. The numbers of French actually grew after independence in 1960 and they dominated management and service industries while the Lebanese prospered in commerce.

In 1985 coffee and cocoa receipts were \$1.5 billion but by 1988 they had halved to \$776 million and are still falling.

Hamad A. Abdul Latif Al Hamad distributes medals and service recognition certificates.

## Iran, Iraq seek overseas help

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 26, (AP): Iran and Iraq are both seeking the help of foreign companies to help develop their gas and oil resources, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

Iran's President, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has been advocating foreign help to rebuild and develop the country's economy after the eight-year Gulf war.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh told the weekly newsletter in an interview: "We are at present talking with a lot of companies regarding the development of gas reservoirs, and oil reservoirs also."

But Aqazadeh stressed any such project would "not be under any kind of equity or production-sharing arrangements. The companies would develop these reservoirs, and be paid from the production of these or other

reservoirs".

"A lot of companies have started discussions with us, and the prospects for this programme are good," he said. "I think that during this year we will have a lot of these development contracts with foreign companies."

Aqazadeh said the fields in question were known to contain oil and gas but had not yet been developed. He specifically mentioned part of the Pars gas field in the Gulf.

The newsletter quoted him as saying the emphasis was less on oil than on gas, of which Iran has reserves of 17 trillion cubic metres, the second largest in the world after the Soviet Union.

Aqazadeh put Iran's current sustainable production capacity at 3.3 million barrels a day, set to rise to 3.7 million barrels a day in four months' time and 4 million barrels a day next year.

Al Chalabi said the response has been positive.

expected capacity to expand to around 5 million barrels a day within five years.

In a separate interview, Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdurahim Al Chalabi told the Nicosia-based newsletter that Iraq aimed to increase its production capacity through its new oilfield development programme.

The oil minister said the programme would encompass both light and heavy crude oil, including, "hopefully," the Yamama formation which contains light crude but at a depth of more than 3,000 metres (10,000 feet).

The new programme entails inviting foreign companies to develop new oilfields in Iraq that are already discovered and appraised but as yet undeveloped, the newsletter said.

Al Chalabi said the response has been positive.

Hamad A. Abdul Latif Al Hamad distributes medals and service recognition certificates.

## Long serving employees honoured

The Commercial Bank of Kuwait held a service recognition party at the Grand Ballroom of the Kuwait International Hotel on 24.3.1990 in honour of the employees who served the bank for 25, 20 and 10 years.

Dalal Al Ghannam, assistant general manager, marketing division welcomed the chairman Hamad A.A. Al Hamad and the long serving employees to the function. Al Ghannam thanked the board of directors on behalf of the employees of the bank for holding such a function and distributing awards which symbolise the board's appreciation of the staff's loyalty and hard work.

Al Hamad in his speech appreciated the distinguished services offered by these staff members. He distributed medals and certificates to 126 staff members.

Here is the list of names of employees who were honoured at the function on the basis of length of their service period:

Completion of 25 years of service:

Mahmoud Issa Barhoun.

Completion of 20 years of service: George R. Sequeira, Fahad Ahmad Sheikh, Abdulla Saleh Alawi, Kavoor R. Prasad, Ziad Masoud Karaman, Mohamed Abdulla Maqsood, Joma Matar Al Zeer, Mohamed Hussein Muwafiq, Afaf Sa'ed Nasrallah, Fahriya N. Nusseibah, Mahmud A.R. Hassan, Kureish Varghese, Hikmat Al Naser, Hilda Minuss Arach, Yousef Abdulla Al Assouf, Yasli Kumar Sehgal, Saleh Hassan Amawi, Shafiq Al Shuaib, Sami Sulaiman Jumsa, Sulaiman M. Al Maitham, Elvera Fernandez, Abdulla Ahmed Al Hadrami, Juma A. Sawad, Magda Hassan Darweesh, Aneeqa Antan, Eyad Dekran, Mohamed Yahya Al Ralman and Michael Gonsalves.

Completion of 15 years of service: Vijay Kumar Bali, Saeed Mohamed Sebti, Sultan M. Masoud, Said A. Hamid Kasheer, Elias Santimano, Jennifer Sharma, Antonina Fernandez, Mullaserry S. John, Chandy Math-

ews, Baptist D'Souza, Raja S. Hassan, Murtaza G. Kerimali, Laila Al Majed, K.P. Sasiabar, Daoud Nicolas Bacha, Baby Jose, Lydia Menezes, Ibrahim A. Abdulla, Sayed H. Sayed Ibrahim, Sultan Naeif Abu Salim, Salim Ahmed Bahbara, Abdulla Zaki Ahmad and Suhaila Rizk Sarouphim.

Completion of 10 years of service: William G. Cordeiro, Nahla Hussein Ajani, Maria Jane Noronha, Ana Pedreira Vaz, Rosalind P. D'Souza, Adel Abad Yateem, Maria Anita Fernandes, John M. P. George, Pyarayi Fr Sayeed, S. Radhakrishnan, Nair, Mary Antoine Dagher, Generosa Pereira, Jehan Metwally, John Mathew, Abdul Ghani Al Jabi, Zainudin Al Alware, Abdul Karim Sangamewarai, Hamad Yahya Al Yahya, Sabu T. George, Philip Nary Menezes, Joaquin Esteves, N.E. Varghese, Jose A. Rodriguez, Raul Varghese, Antonio G. Ferreira, Azmi Sultan O. Sultan, Jundi Abdul M. Jundi, Thomas D'Souza, Shaikh Ali Barbaiza, Jose Alas D'Silva, Jose Fernandes, Adnan Issa Al Mattar, Waleed S. Al Wahed, Amal A. Rahim, Abdul Karim, Salima Farhan Al Thwaiwai, Al Alware, Kavoor R. K. Ramazanuji, Raju George Mathew, Dheya Sulaiman Al Saei, Nadia W. Ameer, Ignacio Fernandes, Hungaroutou Abdul Munaf, Adnan Issa Al Jarki, Abdul Majeed Murad Askanan, Rachel P. Chandi, Corazon V. Paras, Tharay Ali Ghiloum, Walter G. D'Souza, Elizabeth Abraham, Shamshud Begum, Fawzia Abdulla Al Bassam, Saeed Helmi Abu Al Soud, Muna Abdulla Fazah Naser Al Deen, George Alexander, Lawebath S. Mubarak, Mohamed Saeer, Meena Berry, Edzakandily Abdulla, Mohamed Rafiq Malek, P.B. Kumar, Alwi A. Al Dewaila, Asrar Ibrahim Atasi, Raghu A.R., Hussain Al Owaid, Kamble L. Narsingh, Minhan Philip Thomas, Abdul Rashid Tufail, Mahmoud Karan Ali, Muna Issa Al Hunayan, Ahmed Abdul Karim, Agnes Andri Bhavani, Nupur Izzat Issa, Nelly Babu Rao and Insaif Hassan Ibrahim.

Japan suggests

## Americans cut credit card use

its economy to make it more open to US imports, according to a report last week in another newspaper, the Asahi Shimbun.

The Americans suggested Japan take steps to increase public works spending, break up business monopolies, bring down land prices and streamline the process for opening retail stores.

Japan's suggestions to the United States, according to the newspaper, included:

■ Limit the number of credit cards one person can own to reduce consumer spending.

■ Abolish the income tax deduction on housing loans, which the Japanese say encourages spending not savings.

■ Construct a network of high-speed public railways to reduce energy consumption.

■ Enact a federal value added tax, a sales tax paid by manufacturers and merchants, to help reduce the budget deficit.

Japanese officials refused to confirm details of the letter but said it was part of the ongoing US-Japan trade talks aimed at identifying the causes of America's trade deficit with Japan, which has been stuck at around \$50 billion a year for several years.

"In the process of negotiation, both parties have proposed various ideas for structural improvements, but in concrete terms, we are not going to make any comment," said a Foreign Ministry official.

The United States has drawn up its own list of more than 200 proposals on how Japan can reform

## Harsh measures to guarantee success

SAO PAULO, Brazil, March 26, (Reuters): Brazilian authorities made their drastic new monetary and fiscal reform especially harsh to guarantee success, Central Bank president Ibrahim Eris said in an interview published over the weekend.

Eris predicted that Brazil, which had reformed inflation of 1,765 per cent last year, "shortly" would be heading towards inflation comparable to developed nations — something like five or six per cent a year."

Brazil had 73 per cent inflation in February.

"We had to give a shock which would have guaranteed success — this was the only method we thought about," said Eris, who became central bank president on March 15 under the incoming administration of Fernando Collor de Mello.

Eris, a Turkish-born naturalised Brazilian, gave the interview to Veja, Brazil's most important weekly.

Collor announced a Draconian economic programme on March 16 that froze most bank account deposits for 18 months — a measure that some people have called confiscation.

"To encircle inflation on all sides, we established an extremely strong monetary and fiscal control, which in theory is enough to bring inflation to zero. For security, we also controlled prices," Eris said.



Money dealers signal trading indications at a Tokyo brokerage company as the dollar rose to 156,000 yen despite central bank intervention early yesterday, the first time it had touched such a level in Tokyo in over three years. The dollar was 156.27 at midday after closing in New York at 154.31. (Reuters wirephoto)

## Tokyo shares sharply higher

TOKYO, March 26, (AP): The Tokyo Stock Exchange's key index soared by nearly 5 per cent today in its second biggest single-day rise ever, even though the US dollar kept gains against the Japanese yen despite central bank intervention.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues, which gained 528.82 points last Friday, surged 1,468.33 points, or 4.83 per cent, today, closing at 31,468.33.

The gain was second only to the 2,037.32-point rise on Oct. 21, 1987, when share prices rebounded from the start of a three-day plunge that took the index below 30,000 before it began rebounding last Friday.

Many investors believed the index had bottomed out last week, when it fell to 2,773.1 points in three days, on Friday's 1,668.98 million shares.

On the currency market, the dollar closed at 156.40 yen, up 1.33 yen from Friday's close of 155.07 yen. After opening at 155.65 yen, it ranged between 155.50 yen and 156.40 yen.

Shares were broadly bought in anticipation of the actual start of the new fiscal year, said a dealer with Nomura Securities, speaking on condition of anonymity. Japan's fiscal year formally begins on April 1, but after Monday, new contracts are counted under the new fiscal year.

While share prices rose almost across the board, construction and electric power issues led the gains.

Blue-chip electrical shares, such as Toshiba, Hitachi and Sony, were also big gainers.

Volume traded on the first section of the exchange was estimated at 700 million shares, compared with last Friday's 668.98 million shares.

On the currency market, the dollar closed at 156.40 yen, up 1.33 yen from Friday's close of 155.07 yen. After opening at 155.65 yen, it ranged between 155.50 yen and 156.40 yen.

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## BLONDIE — By Daryl Cagle &amp; Stan Drake



## MAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dick Gurney



## AGATHA CRUMM — By Garry Trudeau



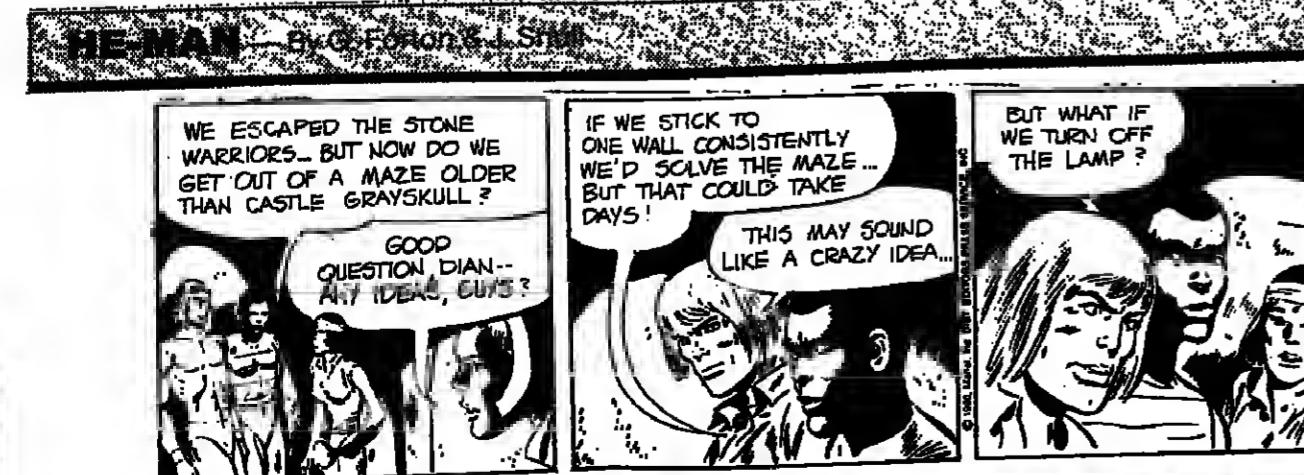
## BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



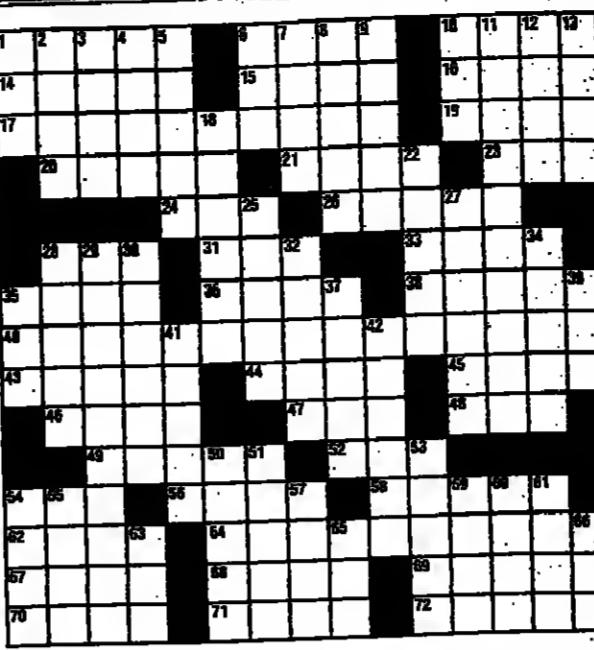
## THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker &amp; Johnny Hart



## ANDY CAPP — By Jennifer Tait



## GOREN'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS  
 1 Yogi of baseball fame  
 6 Asian desert  
 10 Saratoga et al.  
 14 Ratite birds  
 15 Ready for business  
 16 St. Louis tourist attraction  
 17 Harry Anderson's TV show  
 19 Bill of fare  
 20 Scroll of the Pentateuch  
 21 Appear  
 23 Former GI  
 24 Oil-drilling equipment  
 26 Exchange  
 28 Ill. capital  
 31 Preserve  
 33 "Kingfish" of Louisiana  
 35 Israeli port  
 36 Colors  
 38 Carries  
 40 The party-is-over song  
 43 Coin of India  
 44 Cleveland's lake  
 45 "—Horizon"  
 46 Beams  
 47 Little one: Suffix  
 48 Wind direction  
 49 Greet the day  
 52 Airline: Abbr.  
 54 Swimsuit part  
 56 Give the cold shoulder  
 58 Beaming  
 62 Home of note  
 64 Irresponsible one  
 67 Pass catchers  
 68 Words of comprehension  
 69 Miscue  
 70 Powerless

71 Part of SAT  
 72 Oozes  
 73 of a sort  
 74 A late night flight  
 75 Indian statesman  
 76 Take a gander at these?  
 77 Part of Tex. A&M  
 78 Marsh bird  
 79 Fast plane, for short  
 80 41 Aeries  
 81 Margin for error  
 82 Not suitable  
 83 Resonate  
 84 Choreographer  
 85 de Mille  
 86 French President Coly  
 87 Farewells  
 88 Italian coins  
 89 Monster  
 90 Thump  
 91 Inquire  
 92 Wager  
 93 Keepers of the kitty: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:  
 SIRE SASSY OPAL  
 URAL ARETE NEVA  
 FANDANCERS TRD  
 INTEND ASTOUND  
 RILLS PIA  
 MOPPS EER RUBBLE  
 AHA EGRET GORES  
 DANCED DFT THE HOURS  
 AREAL SAINT TOE  
 MAIDEN NEG HEYS  
 RED FIRE  
 PRESSER NEARED  
 LAVA DANCE FLOR  
 OMEN ELUDE ETNA  
 WAND DETER REST

## YOUR STARS



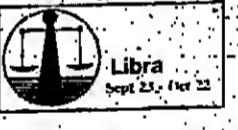
Aries  
 March 21 - April 19

It will be rather hard for you to come to terms with the facts. You will find it easier to persuade others to do what is commonsensical. There is no reason to lose faith in yourself. Be fair.



Cancer  
 June 21 - July 20

There is plenty to look forward to, but you should not expect to have the world at your feet. Do show just a little more goodwill towards others. You should concentrate on doing what is most urgent first. Be resolute.



Libra  
 Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

If you expect others to do exactly what you would like them to, you will not be disappointed in store. Whilst not exaggerating the difficulties you should not ignore them either. If you do a friend a favour, it will be greatly appreciated.



Capricorn  
 Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

If you expect others to do exactly what you would like them to, you will not be disappointed in store. Whilst not exaggerating the difficulties you should not ignore them either. If you do a friend a favour, it will be greatly appreciated.



Taurus  
 April 21 - May 20

Something you have been trying hard to learn will now become second nature. Take a little more care with your personal appearance. If you just hope for the best you will be sorely disappointed: work towards it. Be sincere.



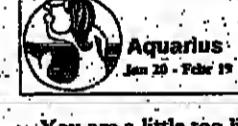
Leo  
 July 23 - Aug. 22

You will be able to make a few welcome changes. You will be lucky insofar as something that could well have happened to you will not. You will have to make sure that you do not take too much for granted. Be sensible.



Scorpio  
 Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

There is a greater tendency to make mistakes and you must be on the lookout for them. And the adage about a stitch in time still remains true. You should not allow your likes and dislikes to upset your judgement. Be lenient.



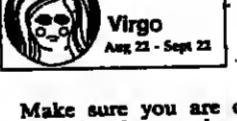
Aquarius  
 Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

You are a little too liable to get caught up in detail and should try to redirect yourself a little. A good idea will help you to overcome a rather unusual problem. There is still time to change your mind, but not much. Be firm.



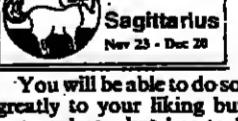
Gemini  
 May 21 - June 20

Make sure that you do not promise anything that you would find it hard to carry out. And make equally sure you meet your existing commitments, your lucky numbers are 17 and 33. Avoid getting into a rut, investigate a different approach. Be cautious.



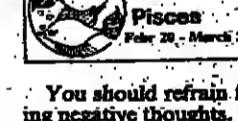
Virgo  
 Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Make sure you are correctly dressed for the occasion and the climate. There is little reason to lose faith in yourself — just continue doing your best and you will succeed.



Sagittarius  
 Nov. 23 - Dec. 20

You will be able to do something greatly to your liking but should not neglect what has to be done. Your financial situation will have to be carefully watched, no impulse outlays please. Indeed this is not the time to act on impulse at all. Be forgiving.

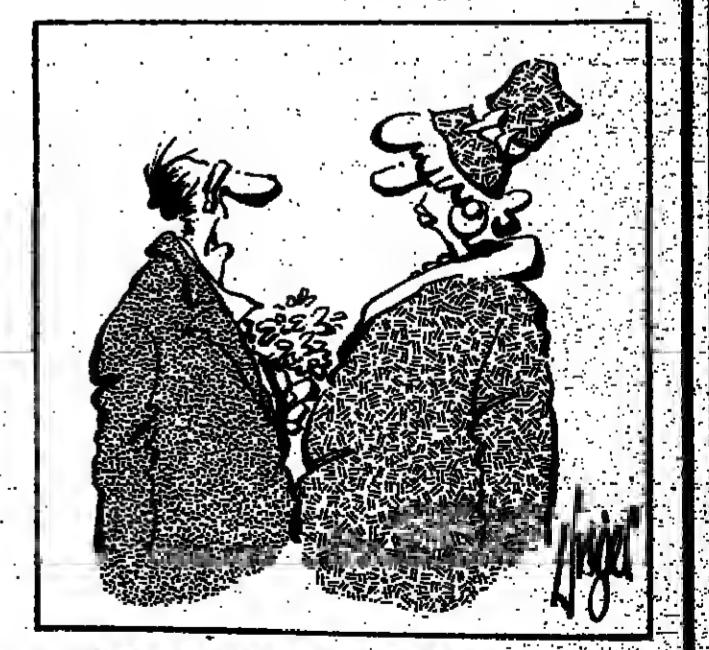


Pisces  
 Feb. 19 - March 20

You should refrain from thinking negative thoughts. Nor should you dwell too much on the past or fear the future. Try to make up your own mind on things, do not think what you think you should. Be tolerant.



"She went to see a hypnotist to lose weight and he put on 40 pounds."



"I don't want to rush things. Let's exchange photographs first."

## GOREN BRIDGE

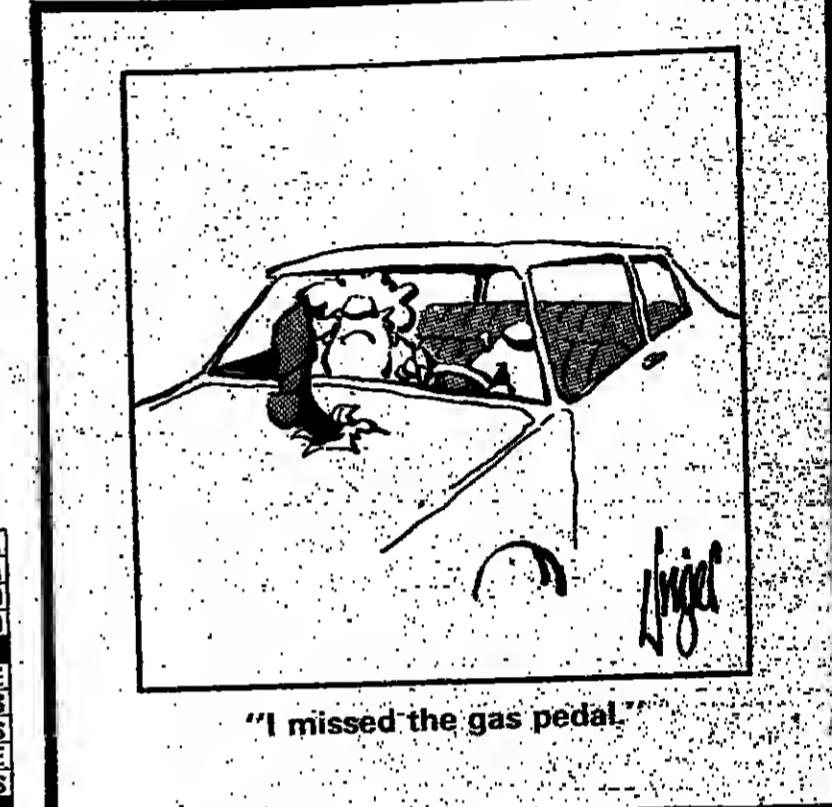
BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

East-West vulnerable. South North's pass and East's takeout double, however. South was no longer sure whose hand it was and the jump to game was a two-way action — it might make, would not prove expensive if it did not and might keep the opponents out of a makable game.

West led the ace of hearts and declarer went down to defeat quickly. The opening lead was ruffed, trumps were drawn in two rounds and a diamond went to the queen and ace. Declarer ruffed the heart return and tried leading clubs from hand twice in an effort to fetch the ace — down one, losing three clubs and the ace of diamonds.

Declarer was in so much of a hurry to draw the enemy fangs that the power of dummy's trumps was overlooked. After ruffing the ace of hearts, declarer should have ignored trumps and led a diamond to the queen and ace. Assume East returns a trump. South wins, leads the king of diamonds and ruffs his own trick in dummy — declarer — desperately needs the entry to the table so he can lead a club to his king. When East turns up with the ace, the king of clubs becomes the fulfilling trick.



"I missed the gas pedal."

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SALWA, Block 11, Street 4, Building  
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22, 39, 41, 101. Rent KD70. Tele.  
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am to 4 pm. (AT2-52023-3)

SALMIYA, Opp. the Indian  
School (Junior). Single room in 2  
bedroom apartment for a  
bachelor. Rent KD50. Tele.  
5638928, 11 am-1 pm, 5-8 pm.  
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RENT

## Dallas outlast Pistons

DALLAS, March 26. (AP): Herb Williams stole the ball from Detroit's Isiah Thomas and fed Derek Harper for a layup with eight seconds remaining in overtime, capping a rally that gave the Dallas Mavericks an 88-96 victory over the Pistons.

Yesterday's setback was the third straight for the defending NBA champions, matching their longest losing streak of the season. The Pistons had previously won 25 of 26 games. Dallas has won four in a row.

Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 23 points and Harper added 21. Thomas scored 22 for Detroit.

**Heat 105, Bucks 102**  
Sherman Douglas hit a tie-breaking jumper from the free-throw line with 7.5 seconds left and slapped away a Milwaukee pass at the 1.3-second mark as Miami snapped a five-game losing streak with a 105-102 victory. The Heat exceeded its number of victories from last season when the first-year team was 16-54.

Douglas had 24 points, nine assists and five steals and Billy Thompson had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Heat, who played their third consecutive game without leading scorer Rony Seikaly, who has a stomach virus. Milwaukee's Ricky Pierce scored 31 points and Jay Humphries added 23.

**Lakers 116, SuperSonics 94**  
Orlando Woolridge and Magic Johnson scored 18 points apiece last night as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Seattle SuperSonics 116-94 for their fourth straight victory.

With the win, the Lakers also opened a 1-1/2 game lead over the Detroit Pistons for the NBA's best record.

Shawn Kemp scored 19 points for the Sonics, who missed their first 10 shots and dropped to the .500 mark with their 12th straight defeat at the Forum, including playoffs.

**Timberwolves 110, Trail Blazers 105**  
Tyrone Corbin and Pooh Richardson each scored 20 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves broke a 22-game road losing streak and became the first Expansion team to beat Portland, holding off the Trail Blazers 110-103 last night.

**Standings**  
Standing of National Basketball Association teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage, games back):

Eastern Conference		
Atlantic Division		
Philadelphia	44-26	.629
Boston	41-26	.612
New York	39-28	.528
Washington	25-43	.368
Miami	16-54	.229
New Jersey	15-53	.221
Central Division		
Detroit	51-18	.739
Chicago	44-23	.657
Milwaukee	36-32	.529
Indiana	34-34	.500
Atlanta	32-36	.471
Cleveland	31-36	.463
Orlando	17-51	.250
Western Conference		
Midwest Division		
Utah	50-19	.725
San Antonio	46-21	.687
Dallas	38-29	.567
Denver	36-32	.529
Minnesota	34-34	.500
Memphis	18-50	.265
Charlotte	13-54	.194
Pacific Division		
L.A. Lakers	51-16	.761
Portland	49-20	.710
Phoenix	46-21	.687
Seattle	34-34	.500
Golden State	31-36	.463
L.A. Clippers	28-43	.377
Sacramento	22-46	.324

**Standings**  
Standing of National Basketball Association teams after games played yesterday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage, games back):

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 26. (Reuter): American Andre Agassi won his second title of the year by soundly defeating third seed Stefan Edberg in the final of the \$2.55 million International Players Tennis Championship

ute contest to score a 6-1 6-4 0-6 6-2 victory worth \$179,000.

"I played well today but I think we've seen a better Stefan Edberg in the past," Agassi said after his win over the highest-ranked player he has ever beaten in a final.

Edberg, who beat Agassi in the final at Indian Wells earlier this month, earned \$94,000 as runner-up but would have taken

over the world number two ranking from Boris Becker with a victory yesterday.

"I started slow and I never really got into the match," the former Wimbledon champion said of the costly defeat. "I just couldn't get to the ball."

Agassi took charge of the match from the outset as he drilled groundstrokes with precision and power that consistently caught lines and corners and kept Edberg away from the net.

The American passed Edberg with ease to reach 4-0 and the Swede was unable to hold serve until the first game of the second set.

Agassi broke Edberg for 2-1 to claim the advantage he would need to take the second set and as he continued to control points, Edberg grew more demoralised and error-prone.

A concentration lapse early in the third set by Agassi allowed Edberg a brief moment to shine and after the Swede took a 4-0 lead, Agassi appeared to give up on the set.

But it was Edberg who became lethargic in the fourth set as the American kicked his game back into high gear.

Edberg's serve and volley game collapsed in the final set as he double faulted at break point in both the third and fifth games to give Agassi a 4-1 lead.

The Swede staved off two match points at 5-1 with an ace and a service winner, but Agassi held his next serve on his fourth match point with a forehand crosscourt pass that left Edberg lunging at air.

"I think I'm playing well again," Agassi said. "I think that he was playing a little tentative," said Agassi, who won his first title of the year last



Edberg seems tired and defeated after coming to the net to dispute a line call. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Jennings justifies claim

AIX LES BAINS, France, March 26. (AP): When Lynn Jennings was a high school running sensation more than 10 years ago, she made a boast that when she reached age 30, "I'll be the best in the world."

Now, after winning the women's title at the World Cross Country Championship, what is going to be next claim?

"To get better."

Less than 100 days before her 30th birthday on July 1, she won the women's world crown on a bright, sunny day in the French Savoie mountains. Leading virtually wire-to-wire, she punctuated a record-breaking season where she went unbeaten and set national bests in two events and a world mark in another.

Now, after having an up-and-down career after being a high school running star, she has made good on her declaration.

It wasn't an idle boast but a calculated statement.

"It was right before I went off to college at Princeton," Jennings recalled. "I knew that my years at Princeton would not be easy ones. My reentry into the advanced world of running would take some time."

After graduating Princeton with a history degree she went through some low periods.

"I graduated in June 1983. And I did run in the Olympic trials (in 1984)," she said. "It



Jennings crossing the finish line to win the cross country race. (Reuter wirephoto)

wasn't a wholehearted effort at all. I finished dead last in my heat at the 3,000."

I pretty much retired after that. I came home to my parents in Harvard, Massachusetts, in tears."

But she rebounded from that setback. She was second in the World Cross Country Championships in 1984 and finished sixth in both the World Championships in track in 1987 and the Olympics in 1988 at 10,000 metres.

Then came another running depression.

"In sports running, you have your peaks and valleys," she said. "After the Olympic year (in 1988) I went through an incredible down time. It was a real struggle for me from January to June of '89."

"If you ride it, eventually you come back up."

And she did, in force. Starting from January of this year, she set an American record of 8 minutes, 40.45 seconds in the 3,000 metres indoors; a world best of 15:22:64 in the 5,000 and an American road best of 31:06 over 10 kilometres.

She said the competitors will begin at Shanhuaqian, where the wall starts on China's East Coast, drive to the western end at Jiayuguan, and then return to Beijing.

The course crosses mountain ranges, farmland, loess plateaus, grasslands and deserts. It will occasionally run in sight of the Great Wall, China's ancient barrier to northern invaders, which in parts is more than 2,200 years old.

Ma Guilian, director of the Beijing Physical Culture and Sports Committee, said the route will go through areas never before opened to foreigners. It was given special approval by the Chinese government, the said.

Other sponsors are Italy 2000, Marco Polo 2000 of Italy and the Beijing Motor Sports Association.

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And she did, in force. Starting from January of this year, she set an American record of 8 minutes, 40.45 seconds in the 3,000 metres indoors; a world best of 15:22:64 in the 5,000 and an American road best of 31:06 over 10 kilometres.

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## Cup boss worried by Naples stadium delays

NAPLES, Italy, March 26. (Reuters): Luca di Montezemolo, the man masterminding the soccer World Cup in Italy, said yesterday he was seriously worried that work on Naples stadium might not be completed in time for the finals which begin in June.

"There are very serious delays which worry me and ought to worry Naples as well," said Montezemolo, indicating construction work

outside the San Paolo stadium, which resembles a giant building site.

"Naples knew five years ago that it would co-host the World Cup but evidently that wasn't long enough," said the head of the World Cup organising committee after watching Napoli's League match against Juventus.

Work to modernise the stadium began six months after the official October 1987

starting date the Naples World Cup committee said was necessary for all work to be completed on time.

Inside the stadium, the press and VIP stands and new dressing rooms are still incomplete and Naples council is reported to be already in serious debt and struggling to find creditors to lend it money to meet the soaring contractors' bill.

The final cost of completing the stadium is likely to be double the original 1987 estimate of 75 billion lire (\$60 million).

Napoli police and local councillors say they believe the local mafia — the Camorra — are linked to some of the construction firms involved in World Cup projects, and suggest this may be one reason for the escalation of costs.

## Hi-tech fails to win Fifa approval

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 26. (AP): High technology is well on its way to exposing even the tiniest refereeing errors at the World Cup, and the ruling body of world soccer is not amused.

A demonstration of computer technology at Fifa congress this weekend showed that refereeing nightmares like narrow off-side rulings and goal-line disputes can be judged up to a dozen centimetres (a few inches), the Italian Rai television plans to provide viewers with plenty of examples during the month-long tournament.

That displeases Fifa, which already sees fear of failure and emotional pressures building further on its lonesome referees. Blatant humping against a team exposed by scientific means might set off a riot.

"You cannot heat up the atmosphere against the referee," said Fifa general secretary Joseph Blatter. World Cup organisers have already barred the use of video replays on the stadium screens to protect referees' from the pent-up anger from the crowds.

Soccer has always shied away from using videotape in a match to check decisions and is so conservative in its rules and regulations it does not even want to use electronic timing.

The computerised telebeam system seems light years ahead of soccer rules.

It turns a simple television picture into computer graphics, then zips to an ideal perspective via a play and zooms in to pinpoint with minute precision whether a ball crossed the line or whether an attacker was standing level with a defender or inches (centimetres) behind him in an off-side dispute.

It can also simulate the vision of a striker, showing from his viewpoint how he received a pass, ran on goal and shot out of the goalline.

Jaws of jaded journalists dropped to the floor during the demonstration, but World Cup referees might be agape with embarrassment while fans clench their teeth in frustration.

The telebeam pictures would be broadcast after the match for analysis purposes and might show the result of a match to be plain wrong.

### Responsible

"We would like it not to be used but we cannot see how it can be done," said Blatter. He said he would discuss the issue with Rai, the Italian network responsible for the international television pictures.

The potential for controversy is there.

At the 1986 World Cup finals, England's Geoff Hurst scored the winning shot in the final against West Germany when a blistering drive ricocheted off the bar and — seemingly for the timesman — into the goal. But afterwards photos showed the ball never crossed the goalline.

"With stuff like this we might have to play that final again," said England's coach Bobby Robson, who was also impressed with the telebeam performance.

Rai has used the system on a smaller scale over the past few years, and there has yet to be a violent crowd reaction to a bad call, even when a referee was proven wrong.

"There have been no problems so far," admitted Blatter. "Only discussions."

Television has never been used to judge a match, but has played a role in disciplinary sentencing for incidents that escaped the attention of the referee.

Dutch international midfielder Jan Wouters is currently serving a six-week suspension after television showed him intentionally elbowing an opponent in the face. The referee at the match saw nothing.

It was yet another example of the human failings of the referee, who are often the only amateurs on the field full of professionals at the match saw nothing.

Looking back at a history of refereeing errors, Blatter said "you must be aware that things like that happen," arguing that soccer reflects society.

Meanwhile, telebeam shows that high tech also reflects progress.

## Porto on course for title Real on target for record

MADRID, March 26. (Reuters): Leading striker Hugo Sanchez scored twice as Real Madrid beat Tenerife 5-2 yesterday and strode closer to another Spanish Soccer League title and national goal-scoring record.

Real, nine points clear in the championship race, have scored 90 goals this season and are just six short of Barcelona's record total of 1958-59, while Sanchez has his eye on the individual record which has stood for 39 years.

The Mexican striker's brace yesterday took his total for the season to 33, three short of Telmo Zarra's tally for Athletic Bilbao in the 1950-51 season with seven games remaining.

Real were made to work for victory, with Tenerife equalising twice. But Bernd Schuster's mar-

geri.

Shall and Sanchez' infallible marksmanship ensured Real's four-month unbeaten run continued.

Uruguayan World Cup goal-keeper Javier Zeoli withstood the Real onslaught for 15 minutes until Sanchez hit a free-kick over the defence and into the net off a post.

Felipe Minambres equalised 20 minutes later but in the fast minute of the first half Fernando Hierro put the home side ahead again.

A rocketing shot from the halfway line by Salvador Revert surprised Real keeper Paco Buyo to put Tenerife level five minute after half-time.

Assured

Two minutes later Schuster's free kick was headed in by Argentine international Oscar Rug-

geri.

Sanchez scored again 20 minutes later and, with victory assured and an open goal before him, passed to young star Rafael Martin Vazquez for Real's fifth.

Atletico Madrid humiliated

Barcelona with a 2-0 away win on Saturday which saw the Catalans slip two places to fourth after Valencia won 1-0 in Castellon yesterday.

Atletico and Valencia are joint

second with 42 points, while Bar-

celona have 40.

■ Algerian international Rabah Madjer scored yesterday to help keep Porto on target for the Portuguese First Division soccer title with a 2-1 away win over mid-table Braga.

European Cup semifinalists Benfica kept up the pressure with a 2-1 home win over fourth-placed Lisbon rivals Sporting in front of 70,000 spectators.

With nine games to go, Porto lead the table by three points.

Madjer, voted Best Player in this month's African Nations Cup in Algiers, came on at half-time and popped up by the post to turn in a free-kick in the 65th minute.

Safe

He missed two later opportunities but Jaime Magalhaes made the game safe for Porto. Brazilian Paulo Moroni scored a consolation goal for Braga three minutes from time.

Brazilian Adesvaldo Lima, who scored twice in Benfica's 3-0 midweek European Cup demolition of Dnepropetrovsk, was guilty of a dreadful miss against Sporting but made up for the lapse with a goal soon afterwards.

Bursting through towards an empty goal with Swedish striker Mats Magnusson, Lima shot off-

balance and missed instead of giving his team-mate an easy chance.

But he redeemed himself with a fine goal a few minutes later, blasting home an intelligent pass from compatriot Valdo.

Vitor Paineira scored Benfica's other goal, while Brazilian international Paulo Silas scored from outside the area for Sporting's consolation goal.

Guimaraes stayed third by drawing 1-1 with Uniao Madeira and fifth-placed Setubal closed on Sporting with a 1-0 win at Estrela Amadora.

■ Brazilian striker Bebeto wants to join a European club after the World Cup finals because he is forced to play too much soccer in his own country.

Bebeto, who is in Brazil's squad to play England at Wembley on Wednesday, said he had received offers to play in Europe next season but he did not want to give further details.

Eurico Miranda, director of his club Vasco, is demanding a transfer fee of \$10 million.

"Because of the Libertadores Cup we will play six games in 12 days at the start of next month. It's very, very tiring, it wears you out and that's why I want to go to Europe," he told Reuters.

Tired

"There's also a danger of getting injured and the supporters don't remember that you're tired. You have to find the motivation from inside yourself.

"In Europe you play on Sunday and occasionally there is a midweek match. You have more time to recover," he added.

Bebeto was Brazil's top scorer last year with 12 goals in 19 games.

### Cerezo hurt

GENOA, Italy, March 26. (AP): Tonino Cerezo, the veteran Brazilian midfielder of Sampdoria of Genoa, tore his left knee ligaments in Sunday's Italiaio Major League action and club doctors said he will be sidelined for the rest of the season.

Some Italian soccer commentators speculated that the severe injury may put an end to the career of the 35-year-old Cerezo, formerly of Atletico Miociro.

Cerezo was injured in the early minutes of the Bologna-Sampdoria game, which La Samp lost 1-0.



## Ajax score narrow victory

AMSTERDAM, March 26. (Reuters): Ajax Amsterdam maintained their challenge for the Dutch League title yesterday when an early goal by winger Bryan Roy gave them a 1-0 home win over Fortuna Sittard.

Ajax moved back into second place in the First Division, two points behind leaders PSV Eindhoven and with a game in hand.

On Saturday PSV, chasing their fifth consecutive title, won 1-0 at MVV Maastricht and Roda JC moved ahead Ajax with a 5-0 win over relegation-threatened Haarlem.

Roy struck after just two minutes to bring some

### Canada win

OTTAWA, March 26. (AP): Canada won the gold medal, but everybody was claiming victory for the sport after the first World Championship of women's hockey ended yesterday.

"It's opened so many eyes," player Dawn McGuire said after Canada beat the United States 5-2 to win the tournament. "They've all seen it. We can all play hockey."

Yesterday, 8,784 flag-waving, roaring fans — likely the biggest crowd ever at a women's hockey game in Canada — packed the Ottawa Civic Centre to watch the Canadian team rebound from a two-goal deficit to beat the Americans.

Even the losers took comfort in the crowd and the attention their often ignored sport gained over the week-long tournament, the first to be sanctioned by the international ice hockey federation.

## Oldest musher completes race

NOME, Alaska, March 26. (UPI): Norman Vaughan, 84, the dog-mushing senior citizen hero of Alaska, was resting yesterday in Nome after completing the grueling 1,161-mile Iditarod sled dog race across the Arctic wilderness.

"I feel a little stiff — wait a minute, I'm ancient and very stiff," quipped Vaughan, sitting

around a breakfast table with friends yesterday for his first normal meal, following his first night of sleep in a bed, after three weeks on the grueling winter trek across the Alaska wilderness.

Vaughan finished at the tail end of the race — but he finished.

The old man of the Arctic sport of long-distance sled dog

racing finished 10 days after Susan Butcher won the race.

Vaughan crossed the finish line Saturday night three weeks after leaving the March 3 race start in downtown Anchorage where 70 sled dog teams raced off into the wilderness.

Butcher won her fourth Iditarod victory March 14 in a record time.

Butcher won her fourth

Iditarod in the early minutes of the Bologna-Sampdoria game, which La Samp lost 1-0.

Cerezo hurt

covered his old touch and sharpness — his second was a perfectly flighted free-kick from five metres outside the penalty area.

Now his desire to lead Argentina to a second successive World Cup crown appears to be rekindled.

"To have a great World Cup, I need first to have a great end to the championship," he said.

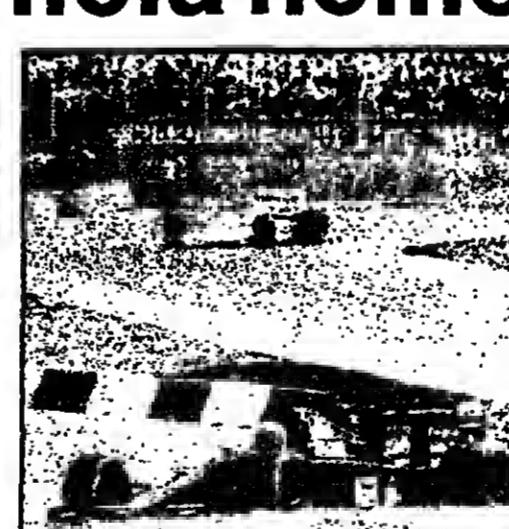
Napoli still trail Italian

League leaders AC Milan by a point and the European champions look to have overcome their recent loss of form. After trailing to an early goal on Sunday, Milan brushed aside Lecce 2-1.

Their rally was due largely to

captain Franco Baresi's first goal of the season which levelled the scores by halftime.

## Ferrari all set for Imola homecoming



Prost guides his Ferrari through the turns. (Reuter wirephoto)

required a long pit stop to have his nose cone and front wing replaced.

Dennis said tersely after the race: "We may have lost, but we weren't beaten."

For Dennis, it had been a frustrating weekend in which he attracted further controversy and also escalated his own private feud with Ferrari and their management by making allegations about the way in which the Italian team had persuaded his former chief engineer Steve Nichols to leave McLaren for Ferrari.

Nichols, grinning broadly in the middle of a celebratory Ferrari pit after the race, shrugged aside the Dennis allegations.

"He can say what he likes. I am not bothered. I have enough to think about without that sort of thing," he said.

One of the most telling remarks in the wake of his top driver Ayrton Senna lost his lead when he was in collision with Satoru Nakajima's Tyrrell as he tried to overtake him on the 40th lap of the 71-lap race.

Senna, desperately keen to win in front of his home crowd,



Prost leads the race at the start. (Reuter wirephoto)

required a long pit stop to have his nose cone and front wing replaced.

Dennis said tersely after the race: "We may have lost, but we weren't beaten."

On Saturday Scott Augmon scored 33 points to lead UNLV to a 131-101 rout that ended the hopes of sentimental favourite Loyola Marymount, while Dennis Scott poured in 40 points and Kenny Anderson added 30 to lift Georgia Tech to a 93-91 win over the University of Minnesota.

UNLV and Georgia Tech join Duke University and the University of Arkansas in Denver for next week's championship games. On Saturday Duke upset the University of Connecticut 79-78 in overtime and Arkansas defeated the University of Texas 88-85.

Loyola Marymount was unable to contain the potent offensive attack on the running rebels and were eliminated three weeks after the death of its star Hank Gathers, who collapsed during a game from heart failure.

Bo Kimble, who scored a game high 42 points, continued to honour Gathers by taking his first free throw left hand. The team also wore a patch with Gathers' number 44 on their uniforms in tribute to their fallen comrade.

UNLV showed no mercy however and turned an early 16-4 lead into a 67-47 half-time advantage with their wide open style of play. UNLV continued to pour it on in the second half and became the only top-seeded team in the 64-school tournament to claim a place in the coveted final four.

## India, West Indies officials seek tour decision

CALCUTTA, March 26. (Reuter): Cricket officials from India and West Indies aim to resolve a misunderstanding over a tour involving the two teams when they meet in London in June.

The issue to be settled is whether West Indies tour India in the 1990-91 season or the Indians go to the Caribbean.

Biswanath Dutt, president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India

(BCCI) said he expected the misunderstanding to be cleared up at the International Cricket Conference (ICC) annual meeting in London on June 28.

Dutt said: "As far as I am concerned, there is no question of cancellation, the whole tour is tentative and will be so before June 28... the situation is fluid."

West Indies Cricket Board of Control (WICB) president Clyde Walcott was

reported as saying on Friday that India had said the scheduled tour by West Indies was cancelled.

Indian cricket board sources said India was insisting that they toured West Indies under an agreement between the two boards. The agreement was reached after the last West Indies tour of India in 1987, the sources said.

The 1987 tour was undertaken at a

time when it was India's turn to tour West Indies, the sources added. "Therefore, the West Indies board had agreed that India would go on two consecutive tours of the West Indies," one board official said.

India toured the Caribbean 12 months ago, the last time they met West Indies in a Test series.

## W. Indies restrict England to 288

### Ambrose takes four wickets for 59 runs

PORTE OF SPAIN, Trinidad, March 26. (Reuter): West Indies, fired up when Ian Bishop and Ezra Moseley captured four wickets in 11 overs, fought back to upset England's hopes of a big first innings lead in the third cricket Test yesterday.

The pace quartet of Bishop, Moseley, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh took the last eight wickets for 93 to dismiss England for 288 in reply to West Indies first innings of 199 on the rain-hit third day at Queen's Park Oval.

West Indies, 89 behind, reduced the deficit by 11 without loss before the umpires' offer of bad light was accepted by the batsmen after only four balls from Devoo Malcolm.

The paceman struck Gordon Greenidge on the helmet with what proved to be the final delivery of the day, conceding four leg byes.

West Indies dimmed England's prospects of a big lead when Bishop removed Graham Gooch for 84 immediately play began after a rain-delayed start.

Then Moseley, who dispatched Robin Smith and Roh Bailey with consecutive balls, sparked a stamp in which three wickets fell in four deliveries.

David Capel, with a defiant 40 after being dropped on one, frustrated West Indies attempt to wrap up the innings swiftly, the last two wickets adding 44.

West Indies, trailing 1-0 to the



Ambrose: W. Indies' most successful bowler

five-Test series, resume their

On a pitch still offering

considerable movement off the seam

and which was a little variable in

As it was, Capel and Jack Rus-

sell stayed together for 21 overs to add 29 before the wicket-

keeper was caught at second slip off Walsh for 15.

Gladstone Small followed in the next over when he was plumb lbw to Bishop for nought, but Angus Fraser got behind the line and survived for 57 balls before he was caught at third slip off Ambrose for 11. His partnership for the ninth wicket with Capel was worth 40.

Capel was last out when he hooked Ambrose straight to Moseley at long leg, having faced 122 balls and hit three fours.

#### Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings 199 (G. Logie 96, D. Malcolm four for 60)
ENGLAND first innings (overnight)
189 (or two)
G. Gooch c Dujon b Bishop ..... 84
W. Larkins c Dujon b Ambrose ..... 32
A. Stewart c Dujon b Ambrose ..... 9
A. Lamb b Bishop ..... 32
R. Smith c Dujon b Moseley ..... 5
D. Bailey c Logie b Moseley ..... 0
D. Capel c Moseley b Ambrose ..... 40
R. Russell c Best b Walsh ..... 15
G. Small lbw b Bishop ..... 0
A. Fraser c Hooper b Ambrose ..... 11
D. Malcolm not out ..... 0
Extras (B-6 lb-13 nb-16 w-3) ..... 38
Total ..... 298
Fall of wickets: 1-112-152-195-4-214-5-214-6-214-7-243-8-244-9-284.
Bowling: Ambrose 38 2-8-5-9, Bishop 21-6-6-3, Walsh 22-5-4-5, Hooper 18-5-26-0, Moseley 30-5-7-2.
WEST INDIES second innings:
G. Logie not out ..... 6
D. Haynes not out ..... 0
Extras (lb-4 w-1) ..... 5
Bowling (to date): Malcolm 0-4-0-7.

Walsh 22-5-4-5, Hooper 18-5-26-0, Moseley 30-5-7-2.

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